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The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area rangers Banula Marika, Deon Mununggurr and Nalkuma Burarrwang clear ghost nets from a beach in northeast Arnhem Land. Picture: Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation



Rangers take their case to Canberra



THE benefits of Aboriginal ranger programs spread much wider than their important function of looking after country, a new report has found.

As well as showing significant environmental improvements, the report 'Working for Our Country', by Pew Charitable Trusts, found that the majority of ranger positions represented new jobs for previously unemployed people in remote areas where job prospects were scarce, and social and economic disadvantage was extreme.

"There are numerous spill-over benefits to Indigenous communities in which rangers operate and to the wider, national economy in terms of better health outcomes, less crime and improved environmental and heritage protection," Pew's conservation partnerships manager Patrick O'Leary said.

So last week an alliance of 16 ranger groups from across the country travelled to Canberra to ask the Federal Government to double the number of Indigenous rangers by 2020.

● Full report and pictures, page 6

Charity wins



A FOUNDATION that looks after Aboriginal people with a rare degenerative disease has won a landmark court case against

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion.

Federal Court Justice Flick has found that Senator Scullion did not have the power to revoke an earlier decision by

former Minister Jenny Macklin to make a \$10 million grant to the Machado Joseph Disease Foundation (MJDF) from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA).

The ABA manages and distributes royalty money generated from mining on Aboriginal land in the NT. The advisory committee is made up of 14 members elected by the four NT land councils and an appointed chair.

However, final approval for how

Aboriginal money is spent rests with the federal minister, as specified in the *NT Aboriginal Land Rights Act*.

MJDF chairperson Neil Westbury said that the long-term and degenerative nature of MJD meant that individuals living with the disease required care and support throughout their lifetimes.

"Today's ruling provides a sustainable, long-term source of funding that will give MJD sufferers who have demonstrated,

with dignity and against all the odds, a consistent preparedness to truly help themselves," he said.

"It provides the certainty they need to be able to continue manage their lives. It also removes an apparent disjunction between the government's constant calls for less welfare dependence and greater self reliance."

● See page 5

● Editorial: page 20

● The latest edition of *NACCHO Health News* is inside



Huggins delivers historic address

● Page 8



Marcia: Where are our netballers?

● Page 84



All Stars rugby league revamp

● Back page



'Choc' weighs up his options

● Page 87

My FAMILY

Jean Reid-Uluru, Yungkuntjara family, from Uluru, living in Port Augusta, South Australia



THIS is my daughter Jennifer Reid-Uluru, grandson Alex Reid-Uluru, nephew Harry Wilson and me (Jean Reid-Uluru). We are at our stall at the 30th anniversary of the handback of Uluru-Kata Tjuta celebrations.

We are selling bush medicines and beads. My Auntie showed me everything. She gave me all those things. I am happy.

It was important we came here to see my family, my first cousin Reggie Uluru and Cassidy Uluru and my nephew Sammy (Wilson). I'm happy to come back home.

They have all looked after me.

We are traditional owners here.

My Uncle's name is Uluru, that big hill over there (pointing toward Uluru). Uluru is my uncle and my mother's name is Daisy Uluru.

My mum always told me all about the rock. Long time ago, there was no houses. They were living over there, at the base of the rock. She moved away when she had one son.

I was born in Evelyn Downs, near Cooper Pedy.

We went down to South Australia and that's where we stayed.

There is only me now, the youngest daughter. I had two brothers and a

sister. When I talk about my family, it hurts me inside. I've got to be strong to talk about my brothers and sisters.

I grew up on Umeewarra Children's Mission. I would sit there and talk language with mission kids. They would tell me not to talk my language. I'm happy I've still got my language – Yungkuntjara. I go to church every Sunday.

I have four children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

One grandson does everything for me, Alex.

I live with my family. I am happy.

— As told to Jillian Mundy

Share your family with our readers

If you would like to see your family featured in the 'My Family' section of the *Koori Mail*, email a high-resolution digital photo to myfamily@koorimail.com along with a full caption (always reading from left to right) and between 350 and 400 words about your family. Tell us who is in your family, what you like to do as a family, your traditions and achievements, and what is important to you.

OUR CHILDREN



Remote schools in the north-west of the Northern Territory have hosted visits by game development staff from Northern Territory Cricket. The visitors delivered clinics and MILO T20 Blast School Cups at Peppimenarti, Palumpa and Wadeye. More than 250 students took part in activities throughout the week. These children are pictured at Palumpa.

Koori Mail

Postal Address

PO Box 117, Lismore, NSW, 2480

Street Address

11 Molesworth Street, Lismore, 2480

Telephone (02) 66 222 666; Fax (02) 66 222 600

STAFF

General Manager: Steve Gordon – manager@koorimail.com

Editor: Rudi Maxwell – editor@koorimail.com

Advertising: advertising@koorimail.com

Accounts: accounts@koorimail.com

Subscriptions: subs@koorimail.com

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Running to recovery



SYDNEY
runner
John
Leha was
a proud

man after completing the New York Marathon on November 1.

He was one of 10 Indigenous Marathon Project (IMP) runners to finish the gruelling race.

Leha covered the course in 5:54.40 and was the sixth IMP runner home. He once tipped the scales at 170kg, but before the New York Marathon, he lost 43kg.

The IMP program lifted Leha from a tailspin of grief and depression after his brother died from a rare form of cancer in 2013.

Daniel Lloyd, from Murray Bridge, South Australia, was first home in the New York Marathon with a time of 3:41.59.

"That was the hardest thing I've ever done!" he said. "It's so rewarding achieving this goal, I'm absolutely ecstatic."

IMP founder Rob de Castella said the 2015 squad exemplified determination, sacrifice and undeniable resilience.

● See page 86 for more on the New York Marathon.



Prof's call to legalise pot

By **CHRISTINE HOWES**



PROFESSOR
Gracelyn
Smallwood
believes
legalising
marijuana could

be part of the answer to dealing with the emerging ice epidemic in Indigenous communities.

Prof Smallwood – who was recently recognised with a lifetime achievement award by the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives – is set to retire from trauma nursing, just two years shy of 50 years' service.

She said she is retiring because of ice.

"We're now talking about ice and other amphetamines becoming ridiculously out of control," she said.

"I've just been incredibly saddened.

"This is the worst in Aboriginal affairs that I've seen in my nursing and health career in terms of youth suicide, in terms of mass use of methamphetamine and now the dreadful ice epidemic that's affecting lots of families, not just First Nations, but non-Indigenous as well.

"And the trauma, the grief, the loss and the incredible violence

that ice addicts inflict on themselves and the community is starting to take its toll on me.

"So the communities are helpless because the majority of money is not going to the community for a bottoms-up approach to deal with this.

"They've got to deal with it seriously ... don't wait for billions of more money to be spent on it.

"I want to ask if marijuana is the answer.

"Everyone knows about it – from people in high places to the lower socio economic classes – they are all using marijuana for recreational purposes, but it's the hydroponics (strong marijuana that's grown indoors) that's giving mental health issues.

'Problems solved'

"Legalise marijuana and everyone can go back to growing their own bush marijuana and a whole lot of problems are solved.

"I never thought in my time I'd be pushing even for medical marijuana but, having cancer in my own family, past and present, I believe medical marijuana is the way to go.

"But people are giving illegal marijuana to their sick loved ones because they don't want to see them suffer."

She said, as a trauma nurse, there was a lot to deal with but

amphetamines are making it more difficult.

"You've always got the security in," Prof Smallwood said.

"Younger people than me who are fit and healthy could probably take a bit of a thrashing, although violence to staff is unacceptable in any circumstances.

"When you get someone at my age, the bones aren't as strong as they used to be; the muscles aren't as strong as they used to be.

"I've written before about my nephew; he died in a mental health unit with 10 people on top of him, 10 to 12 people, which was totally mismanaged.

"And once security is called in, the patient ends up in the legal system, instead of the health system.

"And now, not just trauma, but even in the wards when they can't fit people; there's so many people on ice, from young to middle age to old, and physically they seem to get 10 times the power.

"It's very sad that anyone, black or white, who is on ice, their strength is quadrupled and slinging staff around."

● Bottom-up approach needed, page 26



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Huge line-up for Homeground

Wagana perform contemporary and traditional Aboriginal dances inspired by the beautiful Blue Mountains and Darug, Gundungurra & Wiradjuri peoples.

THE Sydney Opera House's festival of First Nations culture, Homeground returns this Saturday and Sunday, November 21-22.

2015 Homeground has expanded the music and dance program, and will include the inaugural Dance Rites competition.

Homeground was first launched in 2013, following the huge success of the Message Sticks festival.

Sydney Opera House head of Indigenous programming Rhoda Roberts said this year's festival would include more opportunities for audience members to get involved.

"Alongside artist meet and greets, market stalls and workshops, the opening ceremony on Saturday night will kick off the event with a bang," she said.

Dance Rites is a new competition that involves community dance groups nation-wide, and aims to reinvigorate Indigenous cultural reclamation practices.

The grand final of Dance Rites will be held on Sunday and the winner will receive a \$15,000 prize and the chance to perform at Homeground 2016.

Free music, dance and arts workshops are open for children, as well as weaving workshops.

The music line-up includes Archie Roach, Sunshine Coast fusion stars OKA, Pataphysics, Brisbane singer/songwriter Getano Bann, as well as international acts including Canadian innovators A Tribe Called Red and Tibetan throat-singer Tenzin Choegyal.

The dance program includes eXcelsior, Jannawi Dancers, Koomurri, Malu Kiai Mura Buai Dance Troupe, Wagana Dancers, and Rako Dancers (Rotuma/Fiji).

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Treaty talks at gathering

By ANDY PARKS



A GATHERING of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives from all states and territories will converge on Old Parliament House in Canberra next weekend (November 21-22) for the Gathering of Nations.

It is being organised by Sovereign Union, a group of First Nations Peoples dedicated to uniting and rebuilding as sovereign independent nations throughout Australia.

Convenor Ghillar Michael Anderson, a co-founder of the Aboriginal Embassy and Head of State of the Euahlayi Peoples Republic, said the gathering aims to generate resolutions and declarations that will be put into a document that all representatives can then take back to their people for further discussion.

The agenda for the gathering includes Universal Declarations of Independence and a developing a treaty between nations.

"The current move by the Commonwealth Government's Recognise campaign to include

Aboriginal people in the Australian Constitution (which is a 1900 Act of the British Parliament) clarifies that Aboriginal Nations and Peoples are not in the Australian Constitution and are therefore outside it and continue to be independent," Mr Anderson wrote recently.

"Unilateral Declarations of Independence are not a radical action in any way, but are stating what the current situation is.

"Under international law every nation has the right to govern itself the way it chooses to in its culturally appropriate way. Every nation has to have a land base, a population, law, and the ability to enter into international relations."

He also welcomed recent comments by former Prime Minister Paul Keating that a treaty was "unfinished business of the nation".

"He's a little behind the times because Malcolm Fraser was in the process of negotiating a treaty and it was Hawke that shut it down, but I agree it's good that it's back on the agenda ... We need to get this on the agenda by any means possible and to be

talking about it," he said.

Old Parliament House holds 400 people and as well as Indigenous representatives from around the country. There will be delegations of observers from Fiji and New Zealand and a number of academics from Australian universities.

Mr Anderson said Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has been invited, along with Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and the Greens' Adam Bandt, as well as Mr Keating.

The gathering will begin on Wednesday, November 18, with camping at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. The main meeting days, November 21-22, will be set up for live Skype chats for people from all regions who are unable to attend. Informal discussions will continue until November 25.

Mr Anderson also said the gathering will include people from the Stolen Generations who are "still trying to find their way back home".

"We need to adopt a position on where these people fit and how to work with and help them ... It is not within our culture for our people to be without Dreaming and Connection to Country," he said.

International exposure for band

By ANDY PARKS



THEY are the self-proclaimed "most isolated metal band in the world", but Santa Teresa's

Southeast Desert Metal are hoping their new CD and an appearance on Adam Hills' *The Last Leg Down Under* will take their music far beyond the Central Desert.

The nine-song self-titled CD takes the sound of old-school metal bands like Iron Maiden and Black Sabbath and combines it with lyrics that reflect the stories of the Eastern Arrernte people and the harshness of the surrounding desert landscape.

Since forming in 2007, the band has released an EP called *Let's Rock*, toured the Outback, and played a few festivals.

Own festival

With the new CD completed at Andy Kite's Black Wreath studio in Alice Springs, Southeast Desert Metal decided to put on their own festival to launch it.

Called the Rain Maker Music Festival, it featured a bunch of metal and reggae bands from the Central Desert and, according to singer Chris Wallace, even "some weird hippy music".

"We wanted the festival to



Santa Teresa band Southeast Desert Metal are ready to rock the world.

mix culture," he said.

"Indigenous bands as well as other bands. Everyone enjoyed the launch. The community people liked it. They want to see the festival happen again.

"A lot of people came from town (Alice Springs). We want to build relationships, getting mixed culture, Indigenous and European people playing together. All sorts of music."

One of the people in the

crowd was comedian and TV presenter Adam Hills, who had a film crew with him, shooting segments for an upcoming show called *The Last Leg Down Under* that will be aired in the UK early next year.

Impressed

Apparently Mr Hills was impressed by Southeast Desert Metal and bought the first ever copy of the CD and asked all the band members to sign it.

"He was a good guy," Mr Wallace said.

"He followed us around all day with a camera. We took him to some sites outside of the community. He asked to buy a CD and a T-shirt ... He said he'd help spread the word for us, so I hope he keeps his promise. He loved our set, and the other bands. It was a good night."

The CD is out now and available through iTunes and

the band has also released a video for the song *Eagle*.

"In Aboriginal culture, we have totems. And that's my totem," Mr Wallace said. "I am that eagle looking down. It is something that represents us and the band."

"We are an eagle dreaming clan. We all follow that bird. Iron Maiden has Eddie, well, we have that eagle we follow."

"And that Eagle is a spiritual bird to us."

Landmark victory

By RUDI MAXWELL



A CHARITY that supports Aboriginal people with a rare degenerative disease living in the Northern Territory has won a landmark

case against the Federal Government.

Federal Court Justice Flick has found that Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion did not have the power to revoke an earlier decision by former Minister Jenny Macklin to make a \$10 million grant to the Machado Joseph Disease Foundation (MJDF) from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA).

The ABA manages and distributes royalty money generated from mining on Aboriginal land in the NT. The advisory committee is made up of 14 members elected by the four NT land councils and an appointed chair.

Minister's power

However, final approval for how Aboriginal money is spent rests with the minister, as specified in the NT Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

In 2013, the ABA committee recommended a \$10 million grant to the MJDF. Ms Macklin approved the money and wrote to the MJDF, saying they had been successful.

However, after the change of government in September,



Machado Joseph Disease Foundation clients, staff and volunteers on Groote Eylandt celebrate their Federal Court win against the Commonwealth Government. Picture courtesy MJDF

Senator Scullion revoked the decision, advising the MJDF that it was not in line with the policy of the ABA.

In early 2014, the MJDF pleaded with Senator Scullion to change his mind, however, he refused and the matter ended up in court.

Justice Flick ruled that Senator Scullion did not have the power to overturn Ms Macklin's decision.

MJDF chief executive Nadia Lindop told the *Koori Mail* that foundation clients and staff were feeling positive about the decision.

"The next step for us is to work in a collaborative manner with the

Federal Government to get a funding agreement in place," she said.

Senator Scullion said he was "reviewing the details" of the judgment and had not yet made a decision on whether to appeal.

Machado Joseph disease (MJD) is a rare degenerative wasting condition that mainly affects Aboriginal people of Arnhem Land, and is particularly prevalent on Groote Eylandt. People with MJD exhibit clumsiness and weakness in the arms and legs, spasticity, a staggering gait, difficulties with speech and swallowing,

involuntary eye movements, double vision and incontinence.

It is inherited and there is no cure.

People with MJD retain their cognitive capacity and the symptoms of the disease worsen with each generation.

The MJDF helps look after families with the disease and also conducts research.

Ms Lindop said she hoped the Foundation could now act on the plans it had made in 2013 to expand.

"We'd committed, made decisions on strategy on how to roll out services for people living

on Elcho Island, in central Australia and other areas and we were really relying on that \$10 million so we could invest and use the earnings in perpetuity," she said.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the decision for lots of reasons. Our board was really brave launching this court action."

"It wasn't a fight we wanted to have, but we have real obligations to our clients, people who are suffering now and will be affected in the future."

"We're just really moved by the decision."

MJDF chairperson Neil Westbury said the long-term and degenerative nature of MJD meant that individuals living with the disease required care and support throughout their lifetimes.

Long-term

"Today's ruling provides a sustainable, long-term source of funding that will give MJD sufferers who have demonstrated, with dignity and against all the odds, a consistent preparedness to truly help themselves," he said.

"It provides the certainty they need to be able to continue manage their lives. It also removes an apparent disjunction between the Government's constant calls for less welfare dependence and greater self reliance."

Mr Westbury also played tribute to law firm Gilbert and Tobin, who ran the case pro bono.



Indigenous rangers work to promote and maintain tourist sites. Yupunu Marika and Grace Wunungmurra install tables and fences at Giddies River recreational area in NE Arnhem Land.
Picture: Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation

From humble beginnings in 2006, the Bardi Jawi Rangers from One Arm Point on the Dampier Peninsula in the Kimberley have won national awards for their efforts in protecting odorr (dugongs) and goorlil (turtles).
Picture: Kimberley Land Council



Call to double rangers



The Apudthama Land and Sea Rangers is a founding member of the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance, which plays a key role in reducing threats to vulnerable and endangered marine turtles nesting on the west coast.



Indigenous rangers are at the forefront of the battle against invasive weeds in the Outback, which is why weed management is a major task for many Indigenous ranger groups. The Tjuwanpa Rangers spray prickly pear near Ntaria in central Australia.
Picture: Central Land Council



AN alliance of Aboriginal ranger groups and other traditional owners has called on the Federal Government to double the number of Indigenous rangers by 2020.

The benefits of Indigenous people working as rangers on Indigenous owned conservation parks and marine areas have been highlighted in a new report called 'Working for Our Country'.

Commissioned by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the report shows that since the Federal Government introduced the Working on Country program in 2007, 770 full-time Indigenous ranger positions have been created across 108 groups, managing millions of square kilometres of land and sea with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits.

An alliance of 16 ranger groups and traditional owners launched the report at Parliament House in Canberra last week.

The report found the annual cost of the Working on Country and Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) programs was \$67 million, which represents just 2% of Commonwealth expenditure on Indigenous programs, or 0.2% of the \$30.3 billion spent by all governments on Indigenous services.

It also found 40% of ranger groups are delivering services on a commercial basis. Pew's conservation partnerships manager Patrick O'Leary said this indicates that, once they have stability, ranger groups are able to supplement their income by engaging with the market

economy. A 2010 report conservatively estimated the commercially contracted work undertaken by Indigenous ranger groups to be valued at \$406 million per annum.

"There are numerous spill-over benefits to Indigenous communities in which rangers operate and to the wider, national economy in terms of better health outcomes, less crime and improved environmental and heritage protection," Mr O'Leary said.

The retention rate of rangers is 80-85%, with demand for positions outstripping the number of available jobs. The reports shows the majority of ranger positions represent new jobs for previously unemployed people in remote areas where job prospects are scarce, literacy and skill levels are low, social and economic disadvantage is extreme. Women also make up a significant proportion of the workforce.

Pew director Barry Traill said the beneficial effects of Indigenous Ranger programs go even deeper.

"There is evidence of reductions in alcohol-related issues and increased movement from welfare to work, lower rates of incarceration and inspiring stories of motivated kids who declare at school they want to be a ranger," he said.

Administration of both the IPA program and Working on Country was recently transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Funding for these programs after 2018 is unclear, but the report makes several recommendations to expand and continue them.



Traditional knowledge and modern science combine to deliver environmental and cultural benefits. Warlpiri Elder Joe Jangala Bird shares knowledge with North Tanami ranger Jeffrey Matthews Junior as they conduct a prescribed burn at Papinya.
Picture: Central Land Council

Skilled to join the circus

By JACKIE MUNRO



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander Circus Oz performers fine-tuned their skills at the fifth BLAKflip master class in Melbourne last month.

BLAKflip aims to provide a pathway for talented Indigenous performers to be identified and mentored as potential members of the Circus Oz troupe.

Participants did three weeks of circus training with highly-experienced Australian circus professionals.

The master class covered dance, tumbling, group acrobatics, juggling, clown workshops and performance.

It also focused on specialist aerial skills, which included trapeze and the flying trapeze.

Noongar and Wonga man Michael Smith is a participant of BLAKflip, and has taken part in the program before.

Started at age 11

Circus has been a huge part of his life, having started performing in circus arts when he was 11.

He is now 23.

"Circus isn't just activities, it isn't just fun, it allows you to exercise your voice and express your thoughts in a different way," Mr Smith said.

He believes that BLAKflip is a very worthwhile part of his life because it is a chance to connect with different mobs from all over the country.

He said it was a great program for people of different ages and levels to learn and connect with each other and to just have fun.

Circus Oz Aboriginal and Torres Strait



The Circus Oz BLAKflip crew show some of their moves. Picture: Rob Blackburn

Islander program manager Davey Thompson said that BLAKflip also provided opportunities to audition for long-term circus arts courses at the National Institute of Circus Arts.

"It is Circus Oz's goal to ensure these talented and emerging circus artists

develop and refine their performance skills, focus on new creative material and embrace a genuine affirmation of their ongoing passion for a career in the circus arts," he said.

The 2014 circus production of Corked Up! was created during BLAKflip and was

highly successful.

The 2015 BLAKflip master class participants included, Sydney Blanket, Lara Croydon, Shiralee Hood, Ally Humphris, Kimberlee Hunter, Harley Mann, Guy Simon, Dylan Singh, Elsie Smith and Michael Smith.

Facebook phenomenon

Researcher says Indigenous Australians lead the way in social media

By JILLIAN MUNDY



WITH Aboriginal people using social media at a 20% higher rate than the rest of the population,

researcher Associate Professor Bronwyn Carlson says Facebook users have a role to play in self-harm and suicide prevention.

The 2013 AIATSIS Stanner Award winner became interested in the topic while researching the politics of Aboriginal identity for her sociology PhD. Her thesis will be published in 2016, finding that many people expressed their Aboriginality on social media, in particular Facebook.

She has gone on to research the use of social media by Aboriginal people around the country, funded by an Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous Grant.

"I think it's fair to say that Aboriginal people are pretty much leading the way on social media and really taking charge of that space," Assoc Prof Carlson said.

She said Aboriginal people were using social media for mapping kinship systems, sorry business, memorials and suicide intervention, and there was a preference for using social media over telephone communication.

"What we've (also) seen is a

rise in posts where suicide is the intent," she said.

Assoc Prof Carlson warned that posts indicating self-harm should never be dismissed as attention seeking.

"They might miss a real opportunity to perhaps make a change in somebody's life, which is a bit scary," she said.

"Time is of the essence, even if you think it's attention seeking, act on it; it's all help seeking, and even if it's just to send a message via the inbox, just that contact might make a difference."

During her current quantitative research project, Assoc Prof Carlson has interviewed about 100 Aboriginal people across Australia aged between 18 and 80.

Self-harm intent

One research participant told her of their concern of a Facebook post indicating the intent to self-harm. They were in another part of the country, but through Facebook networks alerted someone who physically went to that person's house and intervened.

"I think we've always connected. Even pre-colonisation, we had our ways of connecting and communicating and keeping in touch with people, and as time's gone on, we've been early adopters of most technology,"



Aboriginal academic Associate Professor Bronwyn Carlson

Assoc Prof Carlson said.

"We look and see how we can use it for our own cultural benefits, keeping our communities together, communicating with each other. Since colonisation, Aboriginal people have been forcibly moved about the country, and now people move for work, education, for all sorts of reason. To keep in touch with family right across the country, Facebook has become this great means.

"Never forget that Facebook is part of a capitalist system, and there's a system of power in place, and what you put on there, you don't own. We understand all those things.

"But from an Aboriginal cultural perspective, Aboriginal people make use of that technology and they use it to suit themselves."

Assoc Prof Carlson's current project is designed to contribute to knowledge of formal and informal help-seeking behaviours among Indigenous Australians.

It is anticipated that the outcomes may influence the development of formal help sources in the services and programs relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including health (eg suicide prevention), employment, housing, economic opportunities and legal services.

There is also an online survey, which can be found through the project's Facebook page 'Aboriginal Identity Online'.

In the US, the University of Washington's School of Social Work has been working with Facebook to improve support for people expressing potentially suicidal thoughts and online friends who see and report those posts.

A tool for Facebook users in the US became available earlier this year, which aims to direct suicidal people to resources and alternatives and also guide concerned friends or family members through a situation most are simply not equipped to handle.

First aid training

Assoc Prof Carlson believes there is a need for mental health first aid training for social media, including Aboriginal specific training.

Assoc Prof Carlson will be hosting an international symposium 'Reterritorialising Social Media: Indigenous People Rise Up', from November 26-27 at the University of Wollongong.

If you or someone you know needs urgent help regarding self-harm or suicide, call Lifeline 13 11 14 or www.lifeline.org.au or the Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 or www.suicidecallback.service.org.au

Talk honours diggers



PRINCE Charles and his wife Camilla might have been the guests of honour, but it was

Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander diggers who were the focus of a Remembrance Day ceremony in Canberra on November 11.

For the first time, an Indigenous person presented the national commemorative address at the Australian War Memorial.

Author and historian Jackie Huggins (pictured), a Bidjara/Birri Gubba Juru woman, recounted the stories of her grandfather and father, who served in World War I and II respectively.

Dr Huggins, who last month was elected as a co-chair of the National Congress of Australia's



First Peoples, said her grandfather and father were among thousands of Indigenous veterans, many of whom were denied the honour and rights given to other returning soldiers.

"Their abiding loyalty to this country we all call home rose

above the deep bitterness of the past," she said.

"These men and women forged new identities that challenged the haunting devastations brought by widespread, violent, colonial brutality and heralded a new and different future for us all."

A gallery in the memorial's western courtyard gallery will be renamed in honour of the first Aboriginal man to become an officer in the Australian Army, Captain Reg Saunders.

Saunders, a Gunditjmara man, enlisted at the start of WWII, serving in campaigns in North Africa.

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion said Captain Saunders' strong leadership skills became obvious early in his service.

"Reg fought first in Libya in 1940 and then in Greece in 1941 and was nominated for officer training by his commanding officer in 1944," he said.

"He attended officer training school in Seymour, graduating as a lieutenant in December 1944 – the first Aboriginal Australian to attain this level of command in the Australian Army.

"He went on to serve in the Korean War, where he was promoted to captain, and resigned from the army in 1954. Reg was appointed a Member of the British Empire in 1971 for his community service and died in 1990 aged 69.

"It's fitting such a well respected soldier and leader is honoured by the Australian War Memorial in this way."

The Prince of Wales and

Duchess of Cornwall, Governor-General Peter Cosgrove and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull joined dozens of school children in laying wreaths on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The royal couple also placed a poppy on the roll of honour of two fallen soldiers – Private Maitland Madge and Corporal Charles Harry Orme – before signing the visitors' book.

Maitland Madge was the son of an Aboriginal woman and English immigrant, who served in both world wars. Charles Orme was a farmer and married father of three who fought in WWII.

Both died in Singapore.

This year marked the 97th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I in 1918.

– With AAP

A surfboard fit for a prince



DURING his visit to Australia last week, Prince Charles inspected a very special surfboard, an item of stunning beauty crafted from timber and glass and Indigenous totems, soon to go on display at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

"He loved it," explained Miranda Farmer, the partner of its creator Perth artist Peter Farmer.

"He wants one made." Really? "No, he didn't. I'm exaggerating. He just thought it was amazing," Ms Farmer said with a laugh.

"Being an artist you have got to try everything from paper to canvas to 2D and 3D and see what you come up with," Mr Farmer, a Noongar man, said.

"This is just a trial of what we can do. We will just push it to the next level."

The surfboard will go on display in the new *Encounters* exhibition, which opens on November 27.

It features the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and also Indigenous art works loaned by the British Museum.

Prince Charles, without his wife, the Duchess of Cornwall who ventured off to a local truffle farm, inspected some of the works to go on display and chatted with their creators.

He also tried his hand at making a traditional Indigenous basket under supervision of Indigenous basket-maker Abe Muriata and the watchful eye of a group of children from North Ainslie Primary. – AAP



Prince Charles inspects a surfboard made by Noongar artist Peter Farmer, right.

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Aboriginal designers debut at Cup



TWO Aboriginal designs from central Australia were turning heads on the catwalk at this year's

Melbourne Cup Fashions in the Field Design Award competition.

Batchelor Institute's Visual Arts Department was invited by the Victorian Racing Club to showcase Aboriginal design work at the prestigious fashion event.

Students Phillip McCormack, an Aranda man from Alice Springs, and Nancy Gibson from Yuendumu had their designs selected and arts lecturers Amanda McMillan and Brigida Stewart teamed up to make the dresses for the event.

Both Ms McMillan and Ms Stewart flew down to Melbourne for the big day to help fit the model and to check out the competition.

"Most of them are full-time, professional designers, and we are teachers, so we wanted to see what had to be done (to be competitive)," Ms Stewart said.

Ms Gibson's earthy colours and dot design placed in the top 10 and Phillip McCormack's yellow landscape design was top 20 from a total of 79 entries.

"They were over the moon," Ms Stewart said.

"Phillip was on a high saying maybe he will be recognised for being an artist now ... People want to buy his work and we've had some phone calls from buyers wanting to use his design on some fabric in India."

Ms Stewart said it was the first time central Australian designers have entered the Fashion in the Field competition, but they plan to make it part of the visual arts curriculum at Batchelor now.

"We'll enter every year now and make it part of the real-time learning for our students," she said.

The head pieces were made by Alice Springs milliner Judith Dickson.



Model Fina Po wearing Nancy Gibson's design and model Isabella Alberti wearing Phillip McCormack's design at this year's Melbourne Cup Fashion in the Field design competition.

Arrest laws upheld



THE High Court has upheld the Northern Territory's controversial paperless arrest laws.

The laws allow police to arrest and hold for four hours, or longer if intoxicated, a person they see or suspect of committing a minor crime, such as making a public disturbance or swearing.

Those crimes don't carry a jail term and people can't access bail or a lawyer while detained.

The North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and the Human Rights Law Centre in Darwin challenged the laws, saying they gave police unprecedented and unnecessary powers which have been used disproportionately against Aboriginal people.

But the High Court found by majority that the laws were valid.

"The powers it confers on members of the police force are not penal or punitive in character and do not impair, undermine or detract from the institutional integrity of the Northern Territory courts," a summation of the ruling found.

NAAJA principal legal officer Jonathon Hunyor said they were disappointed that the court hadn't ruled the laws invalid, but pleased that their operation will be significantly narrowed.

"The High Court's decision reins in an otherwise bad law," he said. "The NT Government tried to introduce a law to give police very broad powers to lock people up for minor offences. The High Court has made it clear that the operation of the law is very different in practice."

"Locking people up for minor offending is not the answer. Arrest

and detention should only ever be used as a last resort."

In their first eight months of operation, the paperless arrest laws have been used more than 2000 times. The laws disproportionately impact on Aboriginal people, with approximately 80% of people detained being Aboriginal.

In investigating the tragic death of Kumanjayi Langdon, who died in June after being detained under the laws for drinking in a public park, independent NT Coroner Greg Cavanagh made the extraordinary call for the laws to be repealed, saying they were likely to lead to an increase in Aboriginal deaths in custody.

"A fundamental lesson of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody was that we should not be locking up Aboriginal people for trivial offences," Mr Hunyor said. "The NT Government needs to learn that lesson at last and get serious about reducing the risks of more Aboriginal people dying in custody."

Amnesty International's Indigenous Rights campaigner Julian Cleary said the NT Government should "do the right thing" and repeal the laws.

"If the NT is unwilling to adequately address the Coroner's recommendations, then it's incumbent on the Federal Government to take responsibility," he said.

An online petition by Amnesty International calling for NT Attorney-General John Elferink to repeal the laws has attracted more than 12,000 signatures.

Go to www.amnesty.org.au/action/action/37819/

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The smoking ceremony for ancestors beginning their journey home.



Maureen Reyland and Natasha Langley carefully ensure ancestral remains are handled appropriately.

Remains handed over



ANCESTRAL remains discovered at Lake Mungo in the 1960s and early 1970s

have been returned to Elders from the Willandra Lakes area of western NSW in the first step of their journey home.

The remains, including those known as Mungo Man, were handed to Elders of the Mutthi Mutthi, Ngiyampaa and Paakantji/Barkandji people during a formal ceremony at the Australian National University (ANU) earlier this month.

At the request of the Willandra Lakes communities, the remains were transferred to the National Museum of Australia's (NMA) repatriation unit ahead of their anticipated return to Lake Mungo.

The oldest human remains discovered in Australia and dating back 40,000 years, the remains have been the subject

of extensive research and helped rewrite the anthropological history of Australia.

They were the basis for extensive research that contributed to a deeper understanding of Indigenous Australians and the importance of the Willandra Lakes region as an area of priceless national and cultural heritage.

Returned in 1991

The ancestral remains of a woman and child from Willandra Lakes, known as Mungo Lady and dating back around 20,000 years, were returned to a temporary keeping place at Lake Mungo in 1991.

In 2002, ANU became the official custodian of the Mungo Man remains through a formal agreement with the Willandra Elders Council, ensuring all research and decisions relating to the remains were subject to approval of the Willandra Elders.

In late 2014, the Willandra repatriation traditional custodians formally requested the repatriation of the remains. Archaeologists and researchers from universities across Australia endorsed the request in February this year.

Elders and anthropologists oversaw the careful removal of the remains from a secure location at ANU and the formal handing over of the remains to the Elders and new custodians at the NMA.

Mutthi Mutthi Elder Aunty Mary Pappin said she hoped Mungo Man would soon return to country, and that Aboriginal people from all over Australia would celebrate the return.

"It's been a long time coming for our people," she said. "We are so grateful he is going to be coming home. He's done his job. It is time for him to go home and rest now."

Ngiyampaa Elder Aunty Joan Slade said scientists had looked

after Mungo Man.

"They've treated him very well, but I think they've learned enough now," she said. "Now it's time to take him home to rest. All of Aboriginal Australia will be very proud to know this has happened."

Excited

Barkandji Elder Aunty Lottie Williams said her community was excited about Mungo Man's return.

"It means quite a lot to us because it should never have happened that he was taken away without our permission," she said. "It is really great that he will be coming back."

As part of the return, ANU acknowledged the removal of the remains has been a source of distress for the Elders and local community members, and that past research was not always done with the full knowledge and support of the traditional owners of the

Willandra Lakes area.

On behalf of the University, ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Young made a formal statement of apology to the Mutthi Mutthi, Ngiyampaa and Paakantji/Barkandji people.

"We recognise that the removal of these ancestral remains caused ongoing grief to your communities and we apologise unreservedly for this," Prof Young said.

"We hope that the return of these ancestors to you, the traditional owners, can in some way redress our past mistakes, and the mistreatment and distress that we have caused you. We sincerely hope that this will be the beginning of a healing process for your communities."

A spokesperson for the NMA said the museum would temporarily hold the Willandra Lakes remains at the request of the Mutthi Mutthi, Ngiyampaa and Paakantji/Barkandji people.



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Heritage Council
of New South Wales

Grant Funding Available 2016-2017 NSW Heritage Grants

Applications for funding under the 2016-2017 NSW Heritage Grants program are now invited from:

Owners and managers of items listed on the State Heritage Register
Owners and managers of listed Aboriginal Places
Aboriginal organisations
Individuals, businesses and community groups
Local government

Funding is now open for the following grant streams:

Community, Youth and Seniors Heritage Grants – up to \$50,000 for heritage projects that build skills, confidence and connections within the community, with a particular focus on youth and seniors

Aboriginal Heritage Places Program – up to \$70,000 for projects that benefit listed Aboriginal Places or Aboriginal items on the State Heritage Register and that have the support of the local Aboriginal community

Local Heritage Places – for local government requesting support for local heritage advisors up to \$10,000, local grant programs up to \$10,000 and local heritage planning studies up to \$50,000

Hunter Region Heritage Grants Program – up to \$40,000 for heritage projects relating to items listed on the State Heritage Register in the Hunter Region

Funding Round Closes 16 December 2015

Applications open year round subject to available funding:

Emergency Works Projects – up to \$10,000 for emergency works on items listed on the State Heritage Register

For further information please go to www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/funding or contact the heritage grants team on (02) 9873 8577 or at heritage.grants@environment.nsw.gov.au

DubSmash King is seriously funny

By NATALIE CROMB



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander man Ian Zaro, also known as DubSmash

King, has shot to social media fame and is now being rewarded with opportunities he never dreamed of.

Mr Zaro has always had a passion for comedy, producing lip-syncing videos and hilarious 'how to' guides in his free time to post on social media and discovered his love for performing on a leadership camp in his final year of school. He improvised a skit in front of his whole cohort, leaving them in tears of laughter.

Since then, he has reached international notoriety with his social media lip-syncing and is



DubSmash King Ian Zaro

now the 'DubSmash King'.

In March, when the ABC program *Black Comedy* invited Mr Zaro to participate in a five-day workshop in Sydney, he realised the extent of his impact on the comedy world.

Black Comedy producers reached out to Mr Zaro via

Facebook, telling him that they "would love [him] to consider coming to the workshop [they] are running for series two of *Black Comedy*."

It is not all glamour and fun, though, as Mr Zaro has experienced, with fame comes criticism. The vast majority of Mr Zaro's detractors are not attacking his style of comedy or material; they're attacking him for his race.

"People should not care about what people think of them," he said. "Just be yourself. I made a name for myself. I make people laugh. I just have fun and now I am making my way on national TV."

Mr Zaro can be seen on his social media platforms performing regularly, and soon on the upcoming series of *Black Comedy*, which has finished filming.

Bush plum in demand



A NORTHERN Territory community is rallying to meet high global market demand for the Kakadu plum.

Thamarrurr Rangers, based in Wadeye, began harvesting Kakadu plum commercially in 2007.

Since then market demand for the native fruit has rapidly increased due to its health and nutritional properties.

The Kakadu plum has one of the highest Vitamin C concentrations of any natural source and has high antioxidant values, making it highly sought-after globally.

The plums have been found to contain high levels of Vitamin E, which can help prevent chronic diseases including heart disease and cancer.

The tree is only found in the monsoon tropics of the NT and Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Indigenous people have eaten the fruit and used the Kakadu plum tree bark for medicinal purposes for thousands of years.

The Palngun Wurnangat Association, operators of the Woman's Centre in Wadeye, has taken over the commercial harvesting and processing of the fruit.

The harvesting has spread through the community, and as many as 300 people are registered to pick Kakadu plums.

This year four and a half



Angus Melpi holds some of the products that use Kakadu plum and a bowl of the native fruit.

tonnes of fruit were harvested.

Julian Gorman, an Environment and Livelihoods research fellow with Charles Darwin University said that market demand for Kakadu plums will increase even further over the next few years.

Wadeye is a collection centre

for the Kakadu plums, before the fruit is sent to a central processing hub in Darwin that was established by Kindred Spirits Enterprises.

In the future, fruit will come from collection centres from all across northern Australia and the processing hub will process the

fruit for different market needs.

Wadeye community members and rangers involved with the harvest shared their story about their participation in the Kakadu plum industry at the 2015 Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) conference in Darwin last week.

No place for racism in police



THE punishment handed to a South Australian police officer who threatened to tie a noose

around the neck of an Aboriginal man will not be reconsidered, the state's police commissioner says.

Earlier this year the police officer involved was ordered to undergo cultural sensitivity training after the 2013 incident when the man, who was being held under the Mental Health Act, was also threatened with being set on fire and dragged through the streets.

SA Police Commissioner Grant Stevens would not be drawn on the appropriateness of the officer's punishment which had been ordered by his predecessor, but said racism had no place in the force.

"I'm not in a position where I can reopen that particular case and reconsider the punishment and issue a new punishment," he told ABC Radio.

"Racism and racist behaviour has no place in the South Australian police and I will take a dim view of anybody who comes before me in relation to allegations of that type." - AAP



Transport
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Aboriginal Heritage

The Northern Road Upgrade Stages 3 & 4

The Australian and NSW governments are planning to upgrade The Northern Road between Mersey Road, Bringelly and Jamison Road, Penrith as part of the Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan.

Roads and Maritime Services invites Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups that hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places for this upgrade to register to be consulted.

To register your interest, please contact:
Mark Lester, Roads and Maritime Cultural Heritage Officer, PO BOX 973, Parramatta CBD NSW 2124 or email Mark.W.Lester@rms.nsw.gov.au

Registrations may also be made by phone on (02) 8849 2583 during business hours.

Registrations must be received by phone or in writing by **2 December 2015**.

The proposal may result in the Roads and Maritime Services:

- Applying for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and/or
- Undertaking investigations in accordance with the *Code of practice for archaeological investigations in NSW 2010*, and/or
- Undertaking an environmental impact assessment under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

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Left: 2015 CVIAA installation image
Above: Penny Evans *Out of Sight Out of Mind*
2015, 2015 CVIAA winner

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Applications close Sunday 6 December 2015.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.



The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) chief executive Dr Christine Dennis, Victorian Aboriginal Dental Health Unit oral health manager Theresa McNally and ACHS customer services manager Victoria Andrew Harrison.

Dental clinic gets big tick

By NEELIMA CHOAHAN



A DENTAL health clinic in Melbourne is leading the way after becoming the first Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation to gain accreditation.

The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service-run dental unit passed the national standards for safety and quality in health in October after a one-year process.

The accreditation, which is mandatory, is gained through an independent external peer assessment from organisations such as the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS).

According to ACHS website, the program enables an organisation to deliver "safe, high quality health care".

ACHS chief executive Christine Dennis said it was "always a challenge" to achieve the standards.

"It is hard work to actually work through all of those standards and put in place the policies, procedures, the governance systems, the processes," Dr Dennis said.

"(The accreditation) means (VAHS dental unit) have a level of confidence that they are actually meeting the standards ... (and) the community is getting the very best service."

VAHS oral health manager Theresa McNally said the accreditation ensured the quality of service provided by the centre to the community was nationally recognised.

"We had to learn all the six standards and within the six standards there are 246 things that have to be actioned," Ms McNally said.

"There were many staff who put in long hours ... didn't have lunch breaks."

Ms McNally said the process



Dentist Dr Ravi Buchireddy, patient David Arden and dental assistant Nicholas Dempsey.

also required renovating the whole dental area to achieve the standard for preventing and controlling infections.

"We also have digital X-ray, which is less radiation, so safer for the patients, and (the ability for) facial X-rays," she said.

VAHS quality manager Shelley Clay said it was a huge accomplishment.

"It is not an easy process, but we would like all ACCHO's to know that if we can do it anyone can," she said.

"And we are happy to support them along the way."

The dental unit was

established in 1974 and in 2014 alone treated about 5000 patients.

Gunditjmarra and Kokatha man David Arden said he had been accessing the service since he was 10 years old.

Mr Arden, who is an entertainer, said the dental service provided a place where Aboriginal people could feel comfortable and safe.

"Back in the old day, there wasn't an Aboriginal health or dental facility," he said.

"I think it is really important that this service showcases (quality care) within the community and Australia."



Office of Environment & Heritage

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACHAC)

Call for Nominations

Nominations are invited for appointment of members to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee. The Committee advises the Minister for the Environment and the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage on matters relating to the identification, assessment and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW.

Nominations are invited to fill current and future vacancies that may arise during the term of the current Committee. New members are to be appointed from the following:

- Nominees of Aboriginal elder groups
- Registered native title claimants
- Aboriginal owners listed on the Register, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*

Committee members must have experience in Aboriginal cultural heritage matters and an understanding of cultural heritage management issues. Members are entitled to receive sitting fees and reimbursement of travel and other expenses.

The Committee, where possible, is to consist of at least five female and five male members representing a range of cultural areas across NSW.

This is a re-advertised call for nominations. The original advertisement occurred between April and May 2015. Previous applicants will be considered, and are not required to resubmit applications.

For information about the Committee, and to obtain an information kit and application form please contact Colleen Klingberg or Xanthe O'Donnell at the Heritage Division of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on:

Phone enquiries: (02) 9873 8500 or 1300 361 967 (local call cost - connects to OEH, please ask to be transferred to Heritage Division)

Email enquiries: ach.advisorycommittee@environment.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Post: Locked Bag 5020 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Written applications should be forwarded to:

Secretariat Unit
Heritage Division
Office of Environment and Heritage
Locked Bag 5020 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Closing Date: 16 December 2015

Cops slammed on process



THE case of a Western Australian Aboriginal man whose murder charge was downgraded to manslaughter

because of flawed police interviews exposes systemic failures in the force, the state's corruption watchdog says.

Joshua Warneke, 21, was walking home from a night out drinking with his friends in February 2010 when he was assaulted on Old Broome Rd.

His attacker, Kiwirrkurra man Gene Gibson, struck Mr

Warneke with a pole from behind, inflicting massive head injuries.

More than two years later, police investigators interviewed Mr Gibson and, despite English being his second language, an interpreter was not used.

Police had decided beforehand to treat Mr Gibson as a witness, so he was not initially arrested or cautioned, the interview was not recorded and he was not told at the outset of his right to silence.

He was also not afforded his right to communicate with a

lawyer until later in the interview.

In July last year, Supreme Court of WA Justice Stephen Hall ruled the interview inadmissible, saying the failure to treat the accused as a suspect had very significant consequences.

The Director of Public Prosecutions accepted Gibson's plea of guilty to manslaughter.

The Corruption and Crime Commission delivered a report on the case to state parliament last week, calling on WA Police to ensure that people who are

not proficient in English have the assistance of an interpreter, and that officers interacting with Aboriginal citizens are properly trained in culture and language.

The CCC also urged WA Police to ensure decisions not to charge a person are properly authorised and accountable, and that all officers know and apply their obligations under the Criminal Investigation Act and the police manual.

It decided not to publicly publish its opinions of misconduct because of the risk

of prejudicing current proceedings, but has provided them to Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan in a separate report.

Disciplinary proceedings have been brought against several officers and one officer also faces the possibility of criminal charges.

A spokesperson for Mr O'Callaghan said he would consider whether the report raised any new matters affecting the internal investigation, which began in July last year and is well advanced. – AAP



RBV Projects employees Jack David and Larry Mckellar.

Job provider wins award



AN Aboriginal business that helps find Indigenous people jobs in the resources sector has won an Ethnic Business Award.

RBV Projects, based in Brisbane, won the Indigenous in Business category at the 2015 Awards, which were announced at a gala ceremony in Adelaide earlier this month.

Owner and creator of the business Derek Flucker said he was inspired by his grandfather, who was an Aboriginal World War I veteran.

The Ethnic Business Awards celebrate multicultural businesses.

Mr Flucker's business model was created in order to reduce local communities' dependence on welfare.

RBV Projects is becoming one of the biggest Indigenous businesses in Queensland's resource sector, and employs more than 100 people.

The other Indigenous finalists were Pacific Services Group Holdings, based in Botany, NSW; Terri Janke and Company, from Roseberry, NSW; and Rusca Bros Services from Darwin.

Each winner took home a hand crafted crystal trophy and a \$10,000 cheque from the National Australia Bank.

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Owner, Colignan Producers.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY MICK RICHARDS

Qpac 30



Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Professor Mick Dodson at the Australian National University's Reconciliation lecture last week.

Rudd donates \$100,000 to help Close the Gap



FORMER Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has donated \$100,000 to a fundraising campaign to create a new position at the Australian National University (ANU) to oversee the Close the Gap targets.

Mr Rudd announced his contribution to the National Apology Foundation's campaign while he was giving ANU's annual Reconciliation lecture last week.

He also used the lecture to raise concerns about achieving Indigenous recognition in the Australian Constitution by 2017.

Mr Rudd believes that there is still the possibility to create a statement of "national poetry" that acknowledges Indigenous Australians.

The Closing the Gap program was established by Mr Rudd in 2008 after his national apology to the Stolen Generations.

The 2015 Closing the Gap report found that there has been little to no progress made to improve the difference between Indigenous and other Australians in life-expectancy, education, employment, reading, writing and numeracy rates.

Only two targets outlined in Closing the Gap are currently on track, to halve the mortality rate for Indigenous children under five within a decade, and to halve the gap for Indigenous people aged 20-24 to finish Year 12.

Mr Rudd also supported calls for a new target to be added to Closing the Gap, in order to address the "obscene" levels of Indigenous incarceration.

HIV and hep C epidemics likely



SA RISING levels of injecting drug use in Aboriginal communities could lead to an epidemic of HIV and hepatitis C if the government does not rethink the way it delivers key services.

James Ward of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute says increased levels of drug injecting in Indigenous communities, paired with a contraction in health services, pose a serious threat.

"If we don't change the way we are delivering our services, the potential for HIV and hepatitis C to rapidly escalate in our communities is a real scenario – we need to get on top of it," Associate Professor Ward said at a medical conference in Perth last week.

Prof Ward said the drugs being injected in

Indigenous communities were predominantly amphetamine-based, whereas heroin was more prevalent among non-Aboriginal injecting drug users.

"Injecting is a major problem in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities," he said.

"It's escalating."

Prof Ward said urgent action was needed in remote communities that were currently not equipped to handle a drug or health epidemic of this scale.

"We will be behind the eight ball before we even start and then you've got an HIV epidemic fuelled by injecting drug use, which doesn't discriminate in small populations."

"If we are forcing people off their traditional lands into fringe-dwelling arrangements without adequate housing, it is just going to escalate issues like this." – AAP



Australian Government

Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

End of year checklist for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations

Now that the 2014–15 financial year has closed it's time to prepare your reports and hold your annual general meeting (AGM).

Do it now. Don't be late!

☒ Call and hold AGM

Due between 1 July and 30 November

☒ Lodge 2014–15 reports with the Registrar*

Due between 1 July and 31 December

*All corporations must lodge their 2014–15 reports with the Registrar according to their registered size and income.

Lodge your 2014–15 reports online!

It's easy and it will save you time.

Register at <https://online.oric.gov.au>.

The Registrar may take action against any corporation that does not report by 31 December 2015. Under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* the maximum penalty to corporations for each report not lodged is \$22,500.

NEED HELP?

If you need help filling in your reports, are not sure what to lodge or you just need extra time, contact the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC).

Freecall: **1800 622 431** (not free from mobiles)

Email: info@oric.gov.au

www.oric.gov.au

TSI veterans honoured



THE Australian War Memorial has just installed a new artwork representing the legacy and experiences of Torres Strait Islanders during World War II.

Artist Rosie Ware from Waiben (Thursday Island) was commissioned to make the work, *Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion*.

Ms Ware is an award-winning artist whose works are inspired primarily by the natural environment, culture and history of the Torres Strait Islands.

This is the first time that an artwork depicting the military service of Torres Strait Islander people during the Second World War has been displayed in the War Memorial's galleries.

The Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion was formed following Japan's entry into the war, and was the only all-Indigenous battalion ever formed by the Australian Defence Force.

The roughly 830 Torres Strait Islander people who served in the Battalion represented almost every able-bodied man from the region.

Ware's artwork commemorates the service of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion and educates visitors about the impact of World War II in the Torres Strait.

The artwork is also a tribute to the wartime experiences and hardships faced by the women



Artist Rosie Ware in front of her commissioned artwork *Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion*, on display in the Second World War Galleries at the Australian War Memorial.

and children who were not evacuated from the outer islands and were left to fend for themselves after their men had enlisted.

The northern islands between Cape York and Papua New

Guinea suffered multiple air raids following Japan's entry into the war and a large air base was founded on Ngurupai (Horn Island).

Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion was created from three



Rosie Ware with family and friends in the commemorative area of the Australian War Memorial following the launch of her artwork, which pays tribute to the contribution made to the Second World War by the people of the Torres Strait.

black cloth panels, and is emblazoned with lino-block carvings and gold hand-printed paint.

The first panel *Before The War* is currently on display in the

Memorial's Second World War Galleries.

Ware has also included aspects of her parents' experiences and military service in her work of art.

NEW PARRAMATTARD

Draft Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Strategy

Be part of the future of the Parramatta Road Corridor

Over the next 30 years the Parramatta Road Corridor will transform into a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

The NSW Government is working closely with local councils and communities along the Corridor to create new housing choices, generate jobs and improve public transport and walking/cycling connections, making access within and between neighbourhoods easier and safer.

The draft *Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Strategy* is the NSW Government's plan to achieve this.

There are a number of ways you can find out more, share your ideas and provide feedback on the draft Strategy between now and Friday 18 December 2015.

Attend a Community Information Session

Community information sessions and other events and activities will be held in all local government areas in the Corridor throughout the consultation period. The upcoming community information sessions are below. Details of other events and activities are on the website.

Join us at any time between 11am and 2pm

Herb Greedy Hall

Petersham Road, near the intersection of Marrickville Road
Saturday, 7 November 2015

Strathfield Town Hall

65 Homebush Road, Strathfield
Saturday, 14 November 2015

The Holroyd Centre

17 Miller Street Merrylands
Saturday, 21 November 2015

Carriageworks

Track 8, 245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh
Saturday, 28 November 2015

Granville Town Hall

10 Carlton Street, Granville
Saturday, 5 December 2015

Complete an online survey

Visit the website to find out more information and to share your views using the online survey
www.newparramattard.com.au



1300 730 627

info@newparramattard.com.au

Copies of the draft *Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Strategy* are also on display at council libraries and offices in these council areas – Holroyd, Parramatta, Auburn, Canada Bay, Strathfield, Burwood, Ashfield, Leichhardt, Marrickville and City of Sydney.

Talking the business



WA Finance Minister Michael Mischin with Bradley Hall of Karlka NANA.



WESTERN Australian Aboriginal businesses now have a greater understanding of the Federal

Government's Indigenous procurement policy after Supply Nation hosted the Connect Perth 2015 Conference and Tradeshow last week.

Hundreds of established, emerging and hopeful Indigenous businesspeople and entrepreneurs attended the conference, to learn about opportunities to grow their enterprises.

On July 1, the Federal

Government launched its Indigenous procurement policy, with a target of 3% of all of its purchasing to be awarded to Indigenous suppliers by 2020. The \$130 million target is more than 20 times the 2013 figure of \$6.2 million per year.

The WA Government has also made it easier for Aboriginal companies to do business with its agencies.

They held special briefings for Aboriginal companies to encourage them to tender for work in projects like the Water Corporation's \$32 million upgrade to improve the water supply services in the farmlands area of the

Goldfields and Agricultural Region.

The Tradeshow offered opportunities for corporate and government procurement teams to meet and build relationships with a growing number of Aboriginal suppliers.

Supply Nation is a non-profit launched in 2009 to support the growth of the Indigenous business sector.

Supply Nation has developed Indigenous Business Direct, the largest directory of Indigenous businesses in Australia with more than 800 contacts across every sector from road construction to office supplies.



Uniting Church Reverend Sealin Garlett welcomes people to country.



Nicole Hutchinson, Richard Adolphe, Dani Sarreeni, Tarita Cameron and Connie McDonagh.



Tarita Cameron, head of Member Services at Supply Nation, addresses Connect Perth 2015.



Simon Gallagher is ready for business at the Kulbardi Office Supplies booth.



Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre chief executive Rochelle Towart.

A NEW ROLE, A STRONGER TEAM

POLICE CUSTODY OFFICERS ARE OUR NEW LINE OF SUPPORT WITHIN VICTORIA POLICE

Four hundred new jobs as Police Custody Officers are being created in 22 police stations across Victoria. The Police Custody Officer role will play an important part in helping free up valuable police resources.

If you have the discipline and determination to provide vital support to your community and want to enjoy excellent employee benefits and

a secure career, apply now to be part of the Victoria Police team.

The Victoria Police Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan (2014-2018) is committed to strengthening partnerships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment within our organisation.

For more information visit policecareer.vic.gov.au/pco

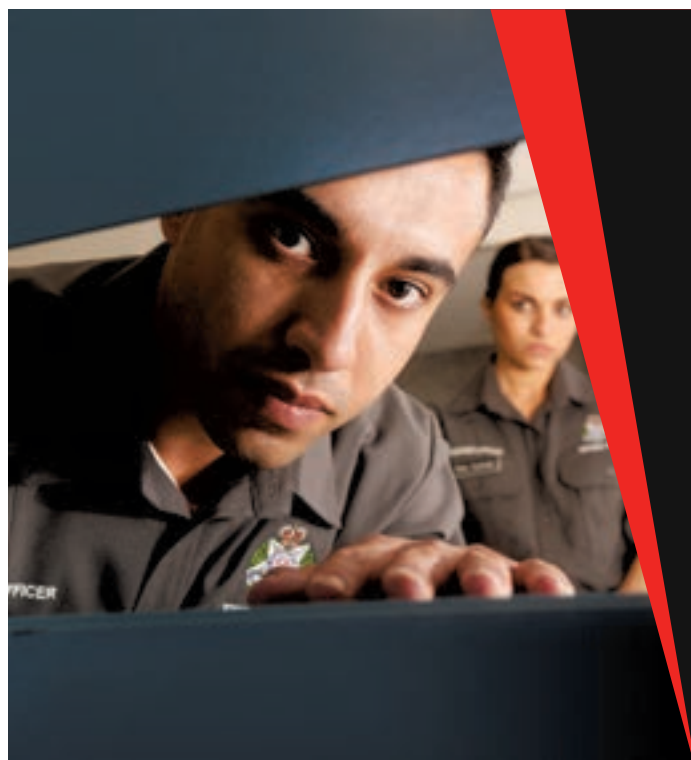
Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



VICTORIA POLICE



State Government



Want to be challenged and involved in dynamic military communications?

In business it pays to be one step ahead of the competition, but in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) good communications and intelligence are critical to capability.

ADF members involved in electronics, IT, strategy and surveillance provide vital support to their colleagues in charge of the military firepower. From relaying secure messages and pinpointing enemy positions to handling classified material, it is vital the military remain connected at all times.

Communication in the Royal Australia Navy

Coming from a military family, Renee Page knew that she wanted to pursue a career in the ADF. The Townsville local joined the Royal Australian Navy in March 2003 as a Communication Information Systems Sailor (CIS) and hasn't looked back since.

"I'm responsible for all communications in and out of the ship on all different systems, whether it be via satellites or radio. I also manage and administer multiple IT systems onboard," Renee said.

As a CIS sailor Renee manages and administers world class technology, ensuring that essential information flows so that the Navy can fight and win at sea. She says her job is not your standard 9-5 job and offers something different all the time.

Command depends on the CIS sailor for access to information. Renee has a lot of responsibility and has to operate with precision and discretion.

Her career highlight was participating in the international Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) in Hawaii.

"Sailing through the heads at Pearl Harbor and seeing all the sunken and remaining hulks of the battleships and destroyers, as well as the other nation's flags flying was pretty spectacular," she said.

"What makes the Navy special is the ability to travel and the mates you make over the course your career," Renee said.

Jahalya Weazel welcomed into the Royal Australian Navy

Woorabinda resident, 17-year-old, Jahalya Weazel enlisted into the Royal Australian Navy as a Boatswains Mate in September 2015.

She decided to join the Navy because of the opportunities it would provide her to travel the world, make lifelong



Leading Aircraftman Joseph Lum

friendships, and develop skills through a career where her day-to-day work would be dynamic and diverse.

Boatswains Mates and CIS sailors work within the Executive Department of a Ship. They report to the Officer of the Watch and Principal Warfare Officer and contribute input to help inform Command Priorities and the mission at hand.

A Boatswains Mate will keep watch on the bridge and provide navigational, ship handling and safety advice while the CIS sailor will relay tactical information.

As a Boatswains Mate, Jahalya will specialise in weaponry, boat handling and refueling while at sea. Both the Boatswains Mate and CIS sailors fulfil critical roles in whole ship evolutions such as boat work, boarding parties, dive teams, and damage control.

The Navy is currently recruiting for communication, IT and intelligence roles. For further information on military training and careers in the Navy visit: defencejobs.gov.au/navy or call 13 19 01.

A local resident from Miranda, Leading Aircraftman Joseph Lum joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 2007 as an Air Surveillance Operator.

Joseph said, at a young age, he was inspired by the

history of past military personnel, and Australia's role in Defence around the world. "I was attracted to the values, lifestyle and the benefits of serving."

As an Air Surveillance Operator, Joseph works on sophisticated radar equipment to provide key insights for Navy, Army and Air Force units.

Communication in the Royal Australian Air Force

"I'm trained to operate radar systems, technologically advanced computers, advanced display systems, extensive communications systems (including satellite data links), and intelligence equipment," Joseph said.

"My duties are to detect, classify, and identify aircraft and surface vessels. Using radar and other sources, my colleagues and I create an up-to-date and complete picture of an area of operations," Joseph said.

These duties are carried out through two main Air Surveillance Operators in Australia, Jindalee Over the Horizon Radar Network (JORN) Coordination Centre Environment and Regional Coordination Centre Environment.

"JORN enables us to conduct 24-hour all weather detection of Australia's northern approaches. It can detect surface vessels and low-flying aircraft beyond the horizon and enables surveillance along Australia's northern reaches from Geraldton in Western Australia to Cairns in Queensland and beyond," he said.

The Regional Coordination Centre also has sophisticated technology, with an array of microwave radars and a suite of intelligence systems that Air Surveillance Operators use to prepare the Australian Air Picture.

Joseph said that beyond getting to do meaningful work, one of the best things about a career in the Air Force is that you have unique experiences outside your day job.

"My most memorable moments so far include graduating from Recruit Training at RAAF Edinburgh; going on patrol on a AP3-C Orion aircraft on a border protection mission; a deployment to France in June 2014 as part of the 70th Commemorations of the D-Day landings in Normandy; and meeting two Governor Generals of Australia and the recipients of the Victoria Cross," Joseph said.

If a career as an Air Surveillance Operator is not for you the Air Force offers a variety of aviation roles for men and women, from controlling our airspace and managing missions, to flying some of the fastest and most manoeuvrable aircraft in the skies.

For further information on military training and careers in the Air Force visit: defencejobs.gov.au/airforce or call 13 19 01.



Jahalya Weazel with Townsville Senior Military Recruiting Officer Lieutenant Ian Whitehead during her Enlistment Ceremony in Townsville



Able Seaman Communication Information Systems Renee Page on the flag deck as HMAS Manoora.

The Army is currently recruiting for various roles. For more information on military training and careers in the Defence Force visit: defencejobs.gov.au or call 13 19 01

'Reinstate health worker'

Kimberley MP
Josie Farrer



LABOR Kimberley MP Josie Farrer is calling for the Barnett Government to reinstate the men's health worker for the Kutjungka area.

Ms Farrer said the men's health worker was removed earlier in the year, which left communities such as Bililiuna, Mulan and Balgo without regular access to assistance and advice about seeking medical services.

The previous men's health worker covered mental, emotional, spiritual, social and physical health.

Ms Farrer said, without a health professional, local men would not be able to attend crucial meetings to educate themselves about monitoring their health, and when to seek medical treatment.

She said the the removal of vital health services in Balgo was hurting the community, and that it was a "appalling decision" that would set the community back a long time and would seriously impact on the lives of local men.

"Everyone knows there are serious health issues affecting men in Balgo, particularly in the area of mental health," Ms Farrer said.

"We should be putting in place

additional services, not taking them away.

"The suicide rate in Balgo is 100 times the national average and relates mainly to young men, the same young men who benefit from additional mental health services."

Now there is only a single Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services officer who only attends clinics in Balgo, Mulan and Bililiuna every six weeks.

During Parliament last week, Ms Farrer officially presented a grievance to Health Minister Kim Hames and requested that a men's health worker for the Kutjungka area be reinstated immediately.

YARN UP ABOUT DEMENTIA

Join us at one of our **Yarn Ups** to learn about memory and dementia, how your brain works and how to keep it healthy.

Please contact Katungul Aboriginal Medical Service to find out more, please call Tel: 4476 2155.

DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS:

Date: Tuesday 24 November
Time: 11am
Venue: Katungul AMS, **Bega**

Date: Monday 30 November.
Time: 11am
Venue: Twofold Bay Aboriginal Corporation – Jigamy Farm, **Eden**

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Call the National Dementia Helpline on **1800 100 500** for information advice and support.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE

Commissioner Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Appointment

A New Direction in Child Protection Brisbane Based

Every day the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) works to improve the child protection and family support system. Our role is to keep a check across the system and work with our stakeholders to find solutions to ultimately deliver better outcomes for children and families. The QFCC champions the needs of all children, young people, families and communities, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Following the recent appointment of the Principal Commissioner, the position of Commissioner is now available. This senior executive role, which reports to and supports the Principal Commissioner, will provide strategic direction in developing and delivering integrated strategies designed to build capability and capacity and improve the culture of the child protection and family support system. You will be a high calibre, enthusiastic, engaging executive who will lead the oversight and evaluation of the system. This includes high level program administration, building partnerships and research initiatives, targeting priority areas and identifying new and innovative ways to achieve better outcomes. Your capacity to cultivate productive working relationships, partnerships and teamwork is essential.

As a key member of the leadership team, you will help shape QFCC's strategic framework through high-level critical thinking, judgement and integrity. Your demonstrated organisational leadership – including experience engaging with government and non-government stakeholders and forming strategic partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities – are key success factors. You are oriented toward achievement, can innovate and can adapt your leadership to suit an environment of organisational change.

In accordance with the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014*, the person recommended by the Premier for appointment as the Commissioner of the QFCC must be an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander.

Please apply; quoting **Ref. No. 4B/24237**, online at **au.hudson.com** Enquiries can be made to **Charles Kerr** at **Hudson** in our **Brisbane** office on **(07) 3258 8393**. Applications close on **Friday, 27 November 2015**. Your application will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Queensland Family & Child Commission
qfcc.qld.gov.au | talkingfamilies.qld.gov.au



**Queensland
Government**

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FROM GREAT PEOPLE TO GREAT PERFORMANCE®



Fiona Jose from
Cape York
Partnership with
her Telstra
Business
Award.

Award for woman working at the coalface of despair



FIONA Jose has won the Telstra Business Award in the Queensland 'For Purpose and Social Enterprise' category for her work with the Cape York Partnership (CYP).

Growing up in a community gripped with serious social problems, Ms Jose is dedicated to empowering her people as general manager of CYP, an Indigenous policy reform and leadership organisation with a comprehensive reform agenda.

Ms Jose deals with the tragic consequences of dispossession and passive

welfare and the reality of domestic violence, youth suicide, drug and alcohol addiction, and severely disadvantaged children.

Mentored by Noel Pearson and supported by a strong family, Ms Jose believes their vision and courage has inspired her to take responsibility for herself and seize every opportunity provided.

Telstra's judges said she had demonstrated real leadership in the community by making connections with local businesses to influence the employment of local people, and running successful programs for Indigenous women in Cape York.

Coal mine deal funds projects

By BRITTA LYSTER



TRADITIONAL owners on the NSW Central Coast have signed a

monumental five-point plan with mining company Wyong Coal, regarding the establishment of an underground coal mine.

The plan has the potential to ensure the long term sustainability of the local Aboriginal community for generations to come.

For the past several months negotiations have been taking place between the Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation (Guringai TLAC) and Wyong Coal to implement a five point plan that is aimed at delivering improved educational, environmental, training and employment outcomes for the local Indigenous community.

The initial three-year agreement will target five specific areas with an aim to expand on those once the Wallarah 2 mine, west of Wyong, is finally operational, which is expected to be in three or four years.

The five program areas that will be funded under the agreement are apprenticeships, business start-up schemes, a mentor scheme, a green team scheme and tertiary scholarships.

Additionally a fundamental aspect of the agreement is Wyong Coal's commitment to provide a guaranteed minimum of 10% Indigenous employment, which is ultimately expected to result in at least 30 jobs for Aboriginal people in the region, which has a high unemployment rate.

Wyong Coal project manager Kenny Barry says the negotiation period has been a learning curve for



From left, Wyong Coal managing director Sang-Seob Park, Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation director David Pross and chief executive Tracey Howie.

both parties but has ultimately brought them closer together in their efforts to establish and maintain a positive, long-term working relationship.

"At the end of the day we all need to work together to create opportunities for Indigenous people and the wider community," he said.

"Once we get operational we will all be able to come together and decide, 'What can we really turn this into? What other opportunities can we create?' because the opportunities really are endless. Before we actually start to make any money, what we're doing is investing money.

"We're investing money in the community and people. A lot of businesses say, 'Our value is with our people,' but it really is.

"You develop good people, you develop opportunities."

Several aspects of the five-point plan will be implemented even before mining starts, including the apprenticeship program,

which will assist local Indigenous students to either finish their HSC or work as apprentices with local businesses.

Guringai has strongly supported the scholarship scheme in the hope that an Indigenous archaeologist will reap the benefits of the program and Wyong Coal hopes the successful applicant will eventually work with the company but points out that they are not obliged to. Other scholarships are available in different fields.

Guringai TLAC will be given the reins to implement the Business Start-Up Scheme by identifying people who will be eligible for \$10,000 a year over three years to establish and maintain businesses that could (but are not obliged to) work in conjunction with the mining operation.

Guringai TLAC chief executive Tracey Howie is excited that this agreement with Wyong Coal will not only create educational and

training opportunities but will increase awareness of Aboriginal people and their culture.

"This agreement means more than just the creation of opportunities for our people, this will provide education and training as well as long-term employment," she said.

"This partnership will also foster increased awareness of Aboriginal culture, identity and heritage amongst our local community, through the apprenticeship and mentor programs we have planned."

It is estimated that the mine will produce an estimated five million tonnes of coal a year, which will be transported to Newcastle and ultimately shipped through the local port there to be sold on the open market. As part of the agreement, Wyong Coal and Guringai TLAC will work together to develop a steering committee who will ensure successful delivery of these programs.

BURABI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ABN: 60 093 557 233

P.O Box 485, ALSTONVILLE, NSW, 2477

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Burabi Aboriginal Corporation are holding an Annual General Meeting on **Saturday 28th November, 2015.**

Held at: The Shed, 2/141 Old Bagotville Road, Wardell from 12.30pm.

Contact: Sharon Cook on (02) 6683 4427 or Mobile: 0427 770 508.

2016 Indigenous Conference Services

--- CALLING FOR PAPERS ---

National Indigenous Youth Justice Conference:

Sydney NSW held on 18th - 20th July, 2016.

National Indigenous Board of Directors Conference:

Sydney NSW held on 20-22 July, 2016.

World International Domestic Violence Conference:

Adelaide South Australia held on 14th - 17th September, 2016.

Global Indigenous Men's Conference:

Adelaide South Australia held on 12th - 14th September, 2016.

Global Indigenous Women's Conference:

Adelaide South Australia held on 12th - 14th September, 2016.

World Indigenous Allied Health Conference:

Cairns Queensland held on 1st - 3rd December, 2016.

International Indigenous Business Conference:

Cairns Queensland held on 2nd - 4th December, 2016.

For further information please visit the event's website:

www.indigenousconferences.com

or email us at: indigenousconferences@iinet.net.au

Indigenous Conference Services (Australia)

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ACL-391113



Local Land
Services
Hunter

Applications open for Hunter Local Land Services Aboriginal Grants Program

Hunter Local Land Services is offering a grants program that supports Aboriginal not-for-profit groups and organisations across the Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter and Manning Great Lakes districts to deliver projects that focus on:

- Aboriginal on-ground land management outcomes; and
- capacity building, training and/or employment of Aboriginal land management teams.

The program is supported by Hunter Local Land Services through funding from Catchment Action NSW.

Eligibility criteria and guidelines apply. Applications close at midnight on Friday, 11 December 2015.

Visit www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au to find out more about the program.

For further information contact Toby Whaleboat on (02) 4938 4946.

Funding available for sports participation



A NEW initiative in the ACT is aiming to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's participation in sport.

ACT Sport and Recreation Minister Shane Rattenbury is calling for expressions of interest for the Indigenous Sports Partnered Programs (ISPP), which allows eligible organisations to apply for funding up to \$30,000.

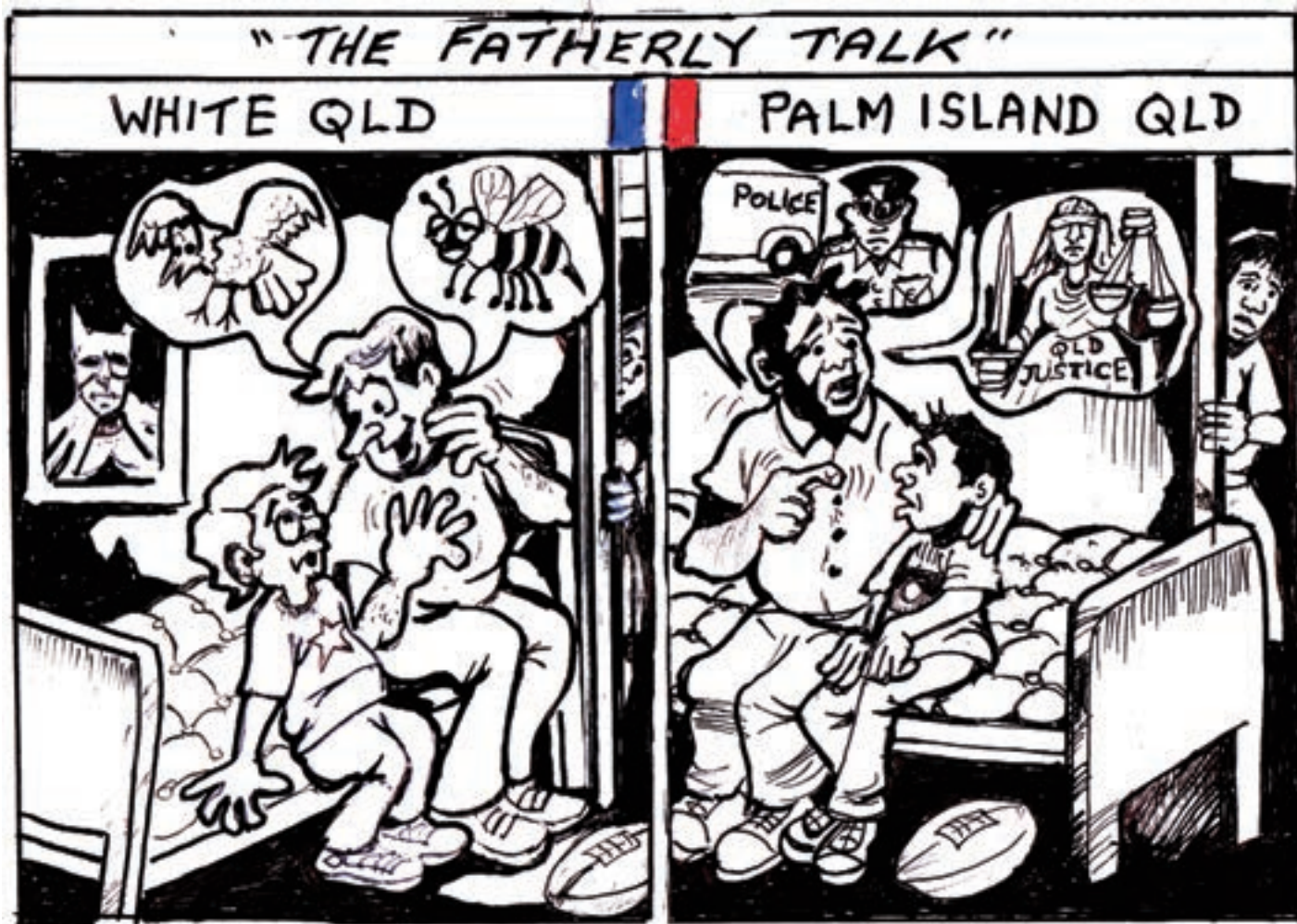
Mr Rattenbury says that the ACT Government is committed to increasing participation in sport and recreation in order for Canberra's Indigenous community to lead healthier, more active lives.

Successful applicants will work with Sport and Recreation Services and the ACT Government to finalise project details before implementing funding agreements.

This initiative is in addition to the Indigenous Sports Grants Program (ISGP) was launched October 8.

For more information on the Indigenous Sports Partnered Programs initiative, including support with submitting an Expression of Interest, visit Sport and Recreation Services' website: <http://www.sport.act.gov.au/grants/indigenous-sports-partnered-programs>.

DANNY EASTWOOD'S VIEW



A Yarn With...



Sammy Lyons

Senior Leader, Pitjantjatjara
Yankunytjatjara Media
chairman and country
singer from Angatja, SA

Favourite bush tucker?
Kamparapara (bush onion) and Kalaya (emu).

Favourite music?
Country.

Favourite sport/leisure?
AFL – Richmond, and I'm football coach for Amata community.

Favourite read?
If I had to read the newspaper everyday it would make my head ache.

Favourite holiday destination?
See my family near Warburton.

What are you watching on TV?
Anything on ICTV.

What do you like in life?
Good people like Michael, Megan and Rachel Lyons, my granddaughter Maninga and Clive Scollay.

What don't you like in life?
All the sugar that causes diabetes, smoking and police handling of trouble in community.

Which black or indigenous person would you most like to meet?
Charlie Pride.

Which three people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
Lee Kernaghan, Merle Haggard and my brother Peter Severin from Curtin Springs.

Who/what inspires you?
Anangu culture.

What is your ultimate goal?
As chairman of PY Media, to make sure that everyone looks after culture, the land and the people, including the white people.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
Welcome and teach white people about our culture when they come to Angatja – I wish everyone in APY Lands could understand that idea. My vision is to make Angatja and APY Lands a welcoming place.

Quote



"My experience tells me that it's not because of lack of talent. A lot of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids are naturally athletic and are well suited to the game."

– Marcia Ella-Duncan on the poor level of Indigenous representation in netball at elite level

● See page 84

Unquote

At last, common sense prevails

A BIG congratulations to the Machado Joseph Disease Foundation (MJDF) for winning their fight against the Federal Government in court.

But they should never have had to plead their case in the first place.

In 2013 the advisory committee for the Aboriginal Benefits Account – made up of Aboriginal people making decisions about Aboriginal money – decided to grant the MJDF \$10 million.

The money was to be invested and the foundation planned to use earnings to help look after more Aboriginal people living in remote areas and suffering from Machado Joseph Disease, a rare degenerative condition.

A pretty good example of Aboriginal people looking after Aboriginal people.

But Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion decided to overturn the decision by his predecessor – devastating the foundation and its vulnerable clients.

Despite pleas to change his mind and invitations for the Minister to visit Groote Eylandt and see the valuable work the MJDF does, Senator Scullion remained resolute. Only he knew what was best for Aboriginal people and Aboriginal money.

Thankfully, the Federal Court ruled that the Minister had overstepped his bounds and was unable to overturn the decision by the previous Minister.

Senator Scullion and the Federal Government had not yet decided whether to appeal at the time the *Koori Mail* went to press.

We can only hope that they decided to behave with good grace, instead of



OUR SAY

arrogant bloody-mindedness and don't waste any more taxpayers' money with an appeal to a higher court.

The Federal Government likes to talk about reducing waste whenever it makes budget cuts.

How about reducing waste by listening to Aboriginal people on how they want to spend their own money and not putting any more obstacles in front of a group trying to look after vulnerable families?

As MJDF chairperson Neil Westbury said, the long-term and degenerative nature of MJD means that people living with the disease require care and support throughout their lifetimes. And because it's inherited and symptoms increase generation to generation, whole families need support.

"Today's ruling provides a sustainable, long-term source of funding that will give MJD sufferers who have demonstrated, with dignity and against all the odds, a consistent preparedness to truly help themselves," Mr Westbury said. "It provides the certainty they need to be able to continue to manage their lives. It also removes an apparent disjunction between the government's constant calls for less welfare dependence and greater self reliance."

Koori Mail – 100 per cent Aboriginal-owned

He's been making a real social impact

By ANDY PARKES

A FORMER diesel mechanic who dropped out of high school has become the first Indigenous person to graduate from the Centre for Social Impact (CSI), a collaboration between the universities of NSW and Western Australia and Swinburne University of Technology.

Peter Cooley, a Bidjigal (Sydney) man who grew up in the La Perouse area, is the founder and chief executive of First Hand Solutions Aboriginal Corporation, a non-profit organisation that runs programs to keep Indigenous kids engaged with school and to reconnect them with traditional culture.

He started First Hand because he feared too many young Aboriginal people were losing touch with their cultural identity, which can result in problems later in life such as crime and suicide.

Mr Cooley said the programs they run help to give people tools to connect with their cultural identity, which can assist in addressing these issues.

For example, the Seeds to Success program promotes leadership and public speaking skills through the construction of bush tucker gardens in primary schools. And Back to Bush is a three-day cultural leadership camp for teenagers to reconnect to culture by working with elders and learning traditional crafts and skills.

First Hand also runs the monthly Blak Markets which provides a space for Aboriginal people to try out new business ideas and products.

Many awards

Over the years, Mr Cooley has picked up many awards for his work, which he said is rewarding when people notice the work being done.

But, he says, he has never done anything as challenging as going to university and completing his two-year Graduate Certificate course.

"I wasn't very successful at school. I was always too distracted," he said.

"When I left I was lucky I had a mate who was influential in kicking me up the backside and I started an apprenticeship as a diesel mechanic, and then I was in the trade for 20 years, with the last six at Qantas."

Mr Cooley was also teaching at TAFE and realised he enjoyed writing curriculum programs.

"I thought I needed a change (from being a mechanic) and started thinking about my childhood and how the Elders passed on knowledge which I didn't see happening anymore, and that we needed to bring it back," he said.



Peter Cooley with kids in the Seeds to Success program.



Peter Cooley teaching some of the finer points of fishing in the Catch N Cook program.

One of the first programs Mr Cooley set up was called Catch N Cook, based around fishing and getting kids

doing something physical.

"Fishing was such a big part of my community and I would walk to the beach with my grandfather

and see other kids with parents or grandparents, and I thought, 'That's not happening,'" he said.

"It was so good, and a skill for life 'cause you could get a meal.

"Catch N Cook is all about giving them that skill and doing something different that is outdoors and not on a computer, disconnected from the outside world."

Success

The program was such a success that it spread across NSW and to Queensland and has now been expanded into bigger culture tours by First Hand Solutions.

Mr Cooley also developed a program called Racing to the Top that taught kids to build remote racing cars from scratch and learn about two-stroke engines. About 1000 students have taken part over the 12 years it has been running.

But it was a chance encounter with former Australian Democrats leader and Labor Party senator Cheryl Kernot, who is now a Social Business Fellow at CSI, that got him interested in studying social impact.

"It's been a bit of a journey, but really brought me on as a leader," Mr Cooley said.

"It was a real challenge because I hadn't finished school and wasn't very academic. It was like going to a foreign country going in to class for the first time."

Mr Cooley said understanding academic jargon was like learning another language, but he realised he had years of practical experience and somehow managed to find the time to run a business and a charity, spend time with his family and complete his studies.

"It's the toughest thing I've ever done, but in the end I got through," he said.

Rally calls for equality

By BRITTA LYSTER



"NO more delays! Marriage equality now!" was the catch-cry for more than 300 people who rallied in support of the Government's inaction

on gay marriage in Australia despite overcast, damp conditions in Sydney earlier this month.

The rally – which was held on Saturday, November 7, wound its way through Sydney's centre and ended up at Taylor Square – made it abundantly clear that recent victories in Ireland and the United States, made the Australia's Government's denial of marriage equality increasingly conspicuous and encouraged all rally participants to continue to apply the pressure and demand equal marriage rights.

Front and centre at the march was prolific and vocal Indigenous activist Ken Canning and his wife Cheryl, who attended the march to express their solidarity for the cause, comparing it to the struggle faced by Indigenous Australians for 227 years.

"I went to the rally as an Aboriginal person not speaking for all Aboriginal people but as an individual to show my solidarity not only for the marriage equality cause but to our own sisters and brothers



Indigenous activist Ken Canning takes to the podium at the recent Marriage Equality Rally in Sydney.

that are gay or lesbian," Mr Canning said.

"We have enough problems in our communities, slamming our brothers and sisters, which I believe was not the traditional way.

"Some of our people have, sadly, become homophobic and, whether you believe in same sex marriage or not, we

can't afford to continually keep pushing our own people aside because of some perceived belief. I think we should be taking people in and saying 'You are who you are,' celebrate that and keep as one in unity because I believe that was more the traditional way."

"Gay, straight, black or white, marriage is

a civil right," resounded loudly as the march progressed along Oxford St, making the point that love does not discriminate.

Taking the podium, Mr Canning said if you oppress one group of people, you oppress everyone.

He encouraged all in attendance to continue the long battle that inevitably lies ahead of the gay and lesbian community in their fight to marry the person they love and be recognised as equal in the eyes of the law.

Co-convenor of the march organisers, Community Action Against Homophobia (CAAH), Cat Rose praised Mr Canning for an inspiring speech.

"Ken was telling us we should be able to learn some things from the Indigenous struggle in Australia, which has stood up to enormous amounts of oppression and discrimination," Ms Rose said.

"Ken made the message clear that the fight isn't over. We're still having to deal with the same Liberal Government, the same discriminatory system.

"A consistent feature of this campaign has been the involvement of Indigenous activists."

The Federal Government's position on same-sex marriage is that it will hold a plebiscite (where everybody votes) after the next election.

Radio show breaks down taboos



WHEN Que Kenny was a five-year-old boy, she asked her mother what she would do if she turned out gay.

"I'll flog you,"

came the response.

But Que says the threat didn't scare her.

"Getting flogged was a common thing for a five-year-old, you got flogged for anything.

"But for me to say it was quite a shock for her.

"They started seeing how I'd been playing with girls, dressing up in girls' clothes and playing with dolls, and every time we played doctors and nurses I would always be the nurse, and every time we played parents I would always be the mother," she laughs.

"I wasn't hiding. We were playing in the open in front of our parents, grandparents and family."

Kenny is from the central Australian community of Ntaria, a predominantly Aboriginal town of Western Arrernte people.

She identifies as a transwoman, although she dislikes having to categorise herself for the peace of mind of others.

"Why should I tell people just to please them what I am? I'm a woman if I feel like a woman, and I know that I'm a woman. I just tell them I'm a woman."

Her journey to acceptance hasn't been easy but the teacher and law student, who hopes to specialise in human rights, launched a weekly radio show in February called the *Nurnakah Show* ("Our Show" in Western Arrernte), broadcasting for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people living in Indigenous communities across the country.

The show is the only one of its kind in Australia and has a broad geographical reach. Produced in the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA)



The CAAMA Radio *Nurnakah Show* crew: Que Kenny, Starlady Nungari and Warren H Williams. Picture: CAAMA Radio

studios in Alice Springs, it is syndicated by Koori Radio in NSW and Joy AM in Victoria, with a Kimberley station soon to broadcast it too.

Kenny hosts the show with local LGBTIQ rights advocate and transwoman Starlady Nungari, and well-loved country musician and respected Western Arrernte Elder Warren H Williams, whose involvement is a protective force, Starlady says.

"Warren is one of our biggest supporters. He's an Elder from Hermannsburg. He's a man. By

him stepping up and going, 'It's OK,' he creates a safe space," she says.

"Without Warren, it wouldn't be safe for us to come on the radio and share."

Williams says he's happy to play a part in challenging negative views.

"I like doing this because a lot of my family are gay, so I have to support them too," he says.

Starlady says the *Nurnakah Show* is having a big impact in central Australia, and gives a voice to people whose stories

might not otherwise be told.

"The *Nurnakah Show* came from a really amazing social movement that's happening in Alice Springs ... where Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the LGBTIQ community have really come together to stand up against the discrimination and stigma that we're facing," she says.

Growing up in remote communities can be incredibly isolating for young LGBTIQ people.

"Here in the NT, there is not

the service provision and people are afraid of the taboos and stigmas around people of diverse sexuality and genders, and so even youth services aren't actually looking after these young people; nobody's talking about it," Starlady says.

"That can be really damaging and can really affect the mental health of young people, and that's why the *Nurnakah Show* is so important ... It really breaks down some of those taboos."

Growing up in Hermannsburg, Kenny's teens were a difficult time as she grappled with some unsupportive family members.

"I've been called a disgrace. I've had dirt thrown in my face. I've been spat at. I've been sworn at, many horrible names. But I'm still here today. And after all the many challenges I've been through, I've faced it and I've confronted people," she says.

But her ongoing presence in Hermannsburg and growing awareness of the *Nurnakah Show* has been changing attitudes, she says.

"People accepted me after they've seen the hurt that I've been through. They must have then finally realised, 'She's only a human person too, human like us,'" she says.

"The traumas that I've been through – the violence, the spitting, the crying – it changed the community to actually start respecting me and accepting me. Because I'm their own people."

The show, she says, has given her the spirit to start being true to herself.

"I was in a little eggshell and now I've hatched," she says. – AAP

● People looking for more information on LGBTIQ advocacy and support in Central Australia can visit www.sistersandbrothersnt.com

● The *Nurnakah Show* is broadcast online every Friday morning from 9am CST, or can be heard on the CAAMA website at www.caama.com.au



Gallipoli tribute honours ANZACS



Kieran Ping, 8, performs two traditional songs in Guttang Language on April 21 at Marrangbah Cottage.

Marrangbah Cottage Aboriginal Veterans Memorial Garden was a fitting venue to host a memorial to acknowledge and honour the 100th Anniversary of Gallipoli. Community, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, united to pay tribute to all ex-servicemen and veterans who served in all armed conflicts, including those who served at Gallipoli.

Cultural Aboriginal traditions played a significant part in the formalities of the ceremony in equal proportion to the protocol of Taree RSL Sub-Branch and the Greater Taree City Council. Kieran Ping, 8, captivated the audience by singing two songs in the

traditional language of Biripi. While St Joseph's Primary School Traditional Dance Group, accompanied by local Biripi man Adam Russell on the didgeridoo, performed an emotive dance depicting animals; they were wonderful!

Guest speaker Biripi Elder Aunty Alice Golding shared her memories of her father, who served in WW1. She touched upon the injustices to Aboriginal men when they returned from service and the difficulty reintegrating back into their Aboriginal communities and how they addressed this culturally. Key speaker Biripi Elder Uncle

Raymond Saunders, who served in the RAAF in Malaysia, spoke with strength and purpose when he stated, "As soldiers, we were willing to die, to give our lives in service of this country." Uncle Raymond's impassioned speech touched all present and clarified to all exactly what our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans faced while in service to this country.

Biripi Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre (ACMC), specifically Biripi Aged Care, sponsored Marrangbah Cottage Elders by organising and assisting them to participate in the 2015 ANZAC March in Taree. Forty

Elders with family marched on April 25, the 100th Anniversary of ANZAC. Those who marched were greeted with an avalanche of applause.

After participating in the Taree Anzac March for nine years, Elders were offered their own sign to march behind in an Aboriginal specific contingent. Wearing the Aboriginal-designed t-shirts donated by Biripi ACMC, Elders were extremely proud to continue to reinforce the message of Aboriginal participation in all armed conflicts of Australia.

L MORONEY
Manager, Biripi Aged & Community Services

Mixed messages

On behalf of the Healing Foundation's Stolen Generations Reference Committee I draw your attention to the unacceptable placement of an advertisement on page 19 of your October 21, 2015, edition.

The Salvation Army advertisement, entitled "doing the most good" was published directly opposite a story detailing actor Jack Charles' allegations of sexual and physical abuse during his time at a Salvation Army boys' home in Melbourne.

The thoughtless placement of this advertisement has caused significant distress for members of our

committee and the broader Stolen Generations community.

We implore you to be more mindful and trauma-informed about the placement of advertisements in future. The Healing Foundation would be happy to provide a briefing for your staff about trauma informed practice.

FLORENCE ONUS
Stolen Generations Reference Committee chair

Our apologies for any hurt or distress caused by our actions. In light of the issues you have brought up, we have made the decision not to run any more ads like the Salvation Army one mentioned. – Ed

Election undemocratic

As a constituent of both state and federal electorates, I am appalled of the dictatorship on who could vote and who couldn't vote in the NSW Aboriginal Land Council elections.

We sing out about not being recognised in the Constitution and sang out about not being able to vote before the 1960s, but in 2015 NSW Aboriginal Lands Council elections, we are dictating who can vote instead of encouraging our mob to vote. Our mob is dictating who can vote. I received a letter telling me my suspension ceased in September but the Office of The Registrar, Aboriginal

Land Rights Act (ORALRA), is saying that "I'm supposed to be suspended till 2016 and could not also vote in state elections". By ORALRA dictating who can and who can't vote in an Aboriginal election is a form of communism.

This is not Closing the Gap. We may as well go back before the 1967 referendum, if this is still carrying on and the sad thing is it's happening on the local and state level, if you're a suspended member of a local Aboriginal land council.

DAMIEN EADE
Moree, NSW



Headline heartache

Concerning the November 4 *Koori Mail* front page story headlined *Monster celebration at Uluru*.

Very dissatisfied. Quite concerned. Monster celebration? While our senior traditional women present sacred ceremony? 22 of my teacher colleagues felt equally mortified. *Koori Mail* is not a cheap tabloid. *Koori Mail* carries our hopes, dreams and aspirations for more respect and continued dignity.

NOEL BLOMELEY
Mullumbimby

The Anangu women in the photo call this dance the Mamu Inma, which translates into English from Pitjantjatjara as 'Monster Ceremony', hence the headline. – Ed

Sacred lands

I hope that OnCard International Limited, who are in negotiations to purchase the Van Diemen's Land Company, chairman Rob Wooley takes into consideration the history of the area when his company purchases the business.

For my people Van Diemen's Land Company was the start of rape, theft and murder. My people lived on and looked after our land (now known as Woolnorth) since time began.

In December 1827 Van Diemen's company shepherds started killing Aboriginal men whose main aim was to protect their women from molestation by Van Diemen's land company shepherds.

The area just north of the present day Cape Grim, adjacent to two small islands, called the Doughboys was where my people were massacred on February 10, 1828. Shepherds shot Aboriginal hunters on the high ground and then threw their bodies down upon the rocks after firing upon their families who were camped on the beach. About 30 Aborigines were killed in that massacre on the day.

It is a place that the Tasmanian Aboriginal community today wants ongoing access to so we can teach our youth the true history of what happened to our people.

We encourage Rob Wooley to negotiate and speak with us to have that area of land returned to our control. We are spiritually connected to the land in that area. Even today, when the wind is blowing you can still hear the screams of women, children and our men being murdered.

We encourage OnCard International and their shareholders to consider returning the Cape Grim parcel of land back to us, creating good relations with the first owners of the land.

Don't allow history to repeat itself with bad relationships and unjust measures.

TRUDY MALUGA
State secretary, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

Keeping Your Say short and sweet

A BIG thanks to all of our readers for sending letters, poems and other feedback; we love hearing from you.

You can help us by keeping your letters to 400 words or less and poems generally no more than 25 medium-length lines. This will increase your chances of being published.

Even if sent via email, all letters and

poems must be accompanied by the author's full name, home town/city and state/territory, and a contact number so we can verify content. After that, we're happy to withhold names and addresses upon request.

We will publish 'Looking For' letters as long as they do not breach the privacy of individuals mentioned.

And we're happy to consider photos alongside letters – as long as they're of a high enough resolution and standard, and as long as copyright requirements are met. We accept no responsibility for returning original photos, so please send copies instead.

– EDITOR

POETRY

To the boats, you said, 'nope'

By what authority do you reject the boats and choose whether they sink or whether they float you tell the people to go back home but this land here, is not your own you pay them to leave, to get rid of your burden your heart is hard and that's for certain national security is your excuse while all your actions go down as abuse you say they'll cause trouble, but so did you you murdered our people and you still do did you consult us, whether to let them in as we have the land rights and you have the sin by force you stole it then acted so pure but for all your evil there isn't a cure if you were sorry there's maybe a chance the indigenous to be happy and get back their dance but you love control and power to rule and because of that fact you are the fools

Abi DRabi Sydney, NSW



Mail

The Editor, PO Box 117, Lismore, 2480



Phon

You can reach us on 02 66 222 666



Fax

Send it to us on 02 66 222 600



E-mail

The address is: editor@koorimail.com

The Koori Mail welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Preference will be given to submissions of interest to Indigenous Australians. Please include your town and State of residence, and daytime telephone number for checking purposes. Items may be edited and reproduced.

Generosity of spirit

TWO weeks ago, writing my first article, I discussed generosity of spirit as a value that connects our Aboriginal identity around the globe. I had no idea when writing the article that Sonny Bill Williams was going to provide such a strong confirmation of what I was saying only days later.

Sonny Bill Williams demonstrated this 'generosity of spirit', giving his Rugby World Cup winning medal to a young boy after the boy was crash tackled by security when trying to get close to his All Blacks heroes after the game. Williams is a proud Samoan who maintains his Indigenous connection as a citizen of Samoa, even though he plays rugby for New Zealand.

When you see such a sign that reaffirms a position you have taken, you realise that the 'maran' (ancestors) are with you – which, unfortunately, many others often dismiss as coincidence or as romantic thoughts of fantasy.

I remember when I wrote my first play *Where from you Come*, which was produced by Kooembe Jdarra in Brisbane and my Uncle Reg Knox was our cultural advisor. Uncle Reg was explaining how he once saw the world as a gaaynggal (little fella), telling everyone how he would collect (yurrandaali) goanna eggs for his

mum, who loved them.

"I would lay with my back to the ground with my arms out stretched letting the grass run through my fingers. I closed my eyes and relaxed feeling every single blade of grass between my fingers until I could visualise them... count them individually...

"After a while you're almost asleep, but you can feel the grass roots flowing through the ground and connected to the trees and bushes all around you for miles... then you listen for the birds and they tell you exactly which tree that yurrandaali is hiding and you go straight to the tree."

I remember at the time everyone in the room was just silent – realising what we had just heard and also what had been taken from us. I was determined to ensure when my great grandchildren hear such stories that they don't dismiss them as romantic nonsense.

You only have to look up Bill Gammage's book *The Biggest Estate on Earth* to confirm what Uncle Reg was saying. And how over tens of thousands of years our people became so embedded in understanding the environment that we created the greatest land estate ever seen on the Earth.

This resulted in fantastically fertile soils, now exploited and almost destroyed by intensive



Woolombi Waters

agriculture and the cultural practices of the West. The damage done to our communities and the environment when we forget who we are is devastating.

We had complex number systems, and even navigated using stars and aerial maps like you see on dot paintings... documenting trade routes across the country. These were defined through Gawuban Gunigal as the Waterways, Songlines and Dreaming paths of our people

prior to colonisation.

We learned about the patterns in the sky, such as Goolburri (the Emu) that lies within the Warrambul (Milky Way). And we charted the galaxy recording stories like Miyaymiyaay the Seven Sisters (the constellation Pleiades).

Steven Tingay, a Professor of Radio Astronomy at Curtin University, has written of a study between astrophysicists and artists from the traditional lands of the Wadjari Yamatji people of Western Australia – where "striking concepts started to emerge".

He also comments that the stories passed down by word of mouth to the artists were "accurate to the same patterns in the sky" discovered through ultra-modern telescopes "with striking similarities".

It should not be of any surprise. We knew how eclipses work, how the planets moved differently from the stars, maximising the availability of seasonal foods for ceremonies such as the Bunya festival at the Blackall Range in the hinterland area of the of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

When I saw Sonny Bill's display of kindness, I immediately thought of Johnathan Thurston and the way he gets the kicking tee to hand it to the ball boys after

each kick (the first player to do this) and also giving his headgear to fans in the crowd.

A 21-year-old Thurston also gave up his first Premiership winning ring to injured Bulldogs' captain Steve Price after their 16-13 win over the Sydney Roosters in the 2004 NRL grand final.

With so many negative images of Aboriginal people it's important to recognise such positive actions as they happen. It is equally important to identify such behaviour as part of our culture and recognise it for what it is.

Demonstration of the very kinship systems developed over tens of thousand of years where understanding our obligations and responsibilities as a collective in supporting one another is instrumental to our existence.

So when you see such generosity of spirit demonstrated by role models such as Johnathan Thurston and Sonny Bill Williams allow yourself to feel proud as Indigenous peoples. Not just for what they display on the field but off the field as well. And rest assured that those 'maran' (old people) are still watching over us.

Dr Woolombi Waters is an award-winning writer, educator and academic at Griffith University.

Private sector key to profits

LAST month marked 30 years since the handback of Uluru to the Anangu people. At ceremonies to mark the occasion, many observed the promised economic benefits haven't eventuated. Anangu communities still have high unemployment and few locally owned businesses, as is the case on most Indigenous lands.

Over that same 30 years, 1 billion people globally were lifted out of extreme poverty, mostly through economic development. So why hasn't Australia been able to generate economic development for a few hundred thousand people during that same period?

It's not about a shortage of money or assets. Indigenous Australians have valuable assets, including land and other rights over land. For those dispossessed of land and native title rights, there are large compensation funds – hundreds of millions of dollars – held by land councils and other bodies to foster Indigenous self-management, economic self-sufficiency and economic development.

Invariably, Indigenous people and communities – and the people who

develop policies to help them – look to government or government-funded statutory bodies like land councils to generate economic development.

But governments and statutory bodies don't create jobs, build businesses or generate economic growth. They can create an environment that fosters entrepreneurship and commercial activities. But it's not their role to be the entrepreneurs or pick commercial winners. History is littered with examples where they've tried and failed.

Yet today we continue to see statutory bodies holding assets and operating businesses throughout Australia for the benefit of Indigenous people as the prevailing approach to economic development.

It doesn't work.

Economic development thrives under systems that uphold private property rights, foster level playing fields, free markets and competition and encourage investment in infrastructure and skills. Economic development is about individuals providing goods and services to meet the needs of other individuals. And making a profit from doing so.

When statutory bodies hold assets and operate businesses, it's in their interests to promote them over competitors. This flies in the face of what's needed for economic development.

And since they are not-for-profit organisations they can only use profits to carry on more operations and invest in more assets. Individual Indigenous people (except the ones employed by the organisation itself) don't benefit directly and don't participate in the real economy as a result.

This needs to change.

The Federal Government's Indigenous procurement policy could spearhead this change. Under the policy, 3% of government contracts will be awarded to Indigenous-owned businesses

annually. Some contracts, including those delivered in remote areas, can only go to tender if there's no Indigenous business capable of performing it competitively.

In Indigenous communities most services are funded by government; everything from skilled jobs in health, building and infrastructure management to lower-skilled jobs like cleaning and labouring. So



Warren Mundine

if government engages Indigenous-owned businesses to provide these goods and services, either directly or as part of a bigger supply chain, local Indigenous people have a way to earn a genuine living by meeting the needs of the community.

Some people think empowerment and self-determination means the "community" being responsible for local services. I don't agree.

For example, local councils across Australia

are responsible for waste management, typically engaging contractors to do it. Shifting control of waste management in Indigenous communities from local government to an Aboriginal land council is hardly self-determination. And it isn't empowering. It's just a municipal function every council in Australia has to perform.

And if the land council engages a contractor from outside the community to provide the service it makes no difference to the community whatsoever. This actually signals a community lacking in self-determination. But this is what generally happens – contractors come from outside the community because no-one locally has the skills or equipment to do it. Real self-determination means people are part of a real economy where locals can do what's necessary to sustain their community and meet the needs of people in it. Real empowerment would be locals winning some of these government contracts.

Starting small is the key: individuals in jobs, sole traders, micro businesses and small businesses. And statutory bodies like land councils, Indigenous Shire Councils and Aboriginal

housing authorities should commit to procurement parity too.

Finally, Indigenous economic activity needs to move away from community owned not-for-profit organisations to individually owned, for-profit ventures.

It can be difficult for people living under a centrally controlled economy to adjust to free market and private sector driven activities. Government departments and statutory bodies may not grasp the adjustment required, particularly if their staff don't have business experience.

The private sector therefore has a critical role as a catalyst for this adjustment. By partnering with Indigenous-owned businesses when bidding for government contracts, established companies can offer Indigenous-owned businesses an operational base and skills transfer and help them transition to the free market so they too can realise the economic benefits that are already within their reach.

Nyunggai Warren Mundine is the managing director of Nyungga Black Group and chair of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council.



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Bottom up not top down

I love nursing, and I was honoured to be given the Lifetime Achievement with two other Indigenous nurses from Townsville last month.

I am tired though.

We're now talking about ice and other amphetamines becoming ridiculously out of control.

I attended a mental health meeting in Cairns last week and what saddens me is that there are a lot of amazing grassroots people, community-engaged people, that are still saying the same thing we were saying 30, 40, 50 years ago – that the only programs that are going to effectively work in any community is a bottoms-up approach that's culturally appropriate and is driven from the grassroots level.

I hear really sad stories about short-term funding on the programs that can effectively start to control this out-of-control behaviour.

We've been talking about cleaning up poverty for years, the Miller Report identified that – the National Aboriginal Health Strategy, the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Affairs in Custody and even the Bringing Them Home Report – and yet very few of the recommendations that can assist in closing this gap have been implemented.

What I find even more frustrating is that there are still far too many non-Indigenous people going into our communities under the Closing the Gap Campaign and not empowering our people by phasing themselves out of jobs.

And that's been happening for years.

We still have sometimes up to 90% of the community on welfare, 80% of the jobs come from outside; still 100 to 200% mark-up on food, still 20 people living in one house.

This is about giving people good jobs.

It's about giving people a solid education and a choice of health services (and high-quality health services) and putting self-esteem and pride back into the communities.

Our women and men are dying at alarming rates still, 10 years before the average non-Indigenous Australian, the infant mortality rate is still enormously high, and the suicide rates are out of control; as are the levels of domestic and family violence and self harm.

And, I put it down to poverty, the lack of self-esteem and now the influx of ice.

All these ice task forces must engage grassroots community people.

There's anecdotal evidence that has come out in the past week that most of our youths are taking their lives at early hours of the morning, when many services are closed.

If these services don't want to operate at least from 5pm-8am, then take the funding off them, black or white, and give it to genuine people that want to make sure that their social services are culturally appropriate, that the people are culturally competent.

A lot of our youth hate going to the accident and emergency, because when you have a mental health self-harm or suicide issue, you could be sitting there for hours.



Gracelyn Smallwood

Then you flare up, then security comes, then the police are called in.

Then most of our people who are dealing with these issues are automatically thrown in jail.

So then their mental health goes undiagnosed and mistreated and the cycle of abuse continues.

I worry about the level of people that are becoming extremely wealthy on our poverty.

I worry about the setting up of the grassroots community programs that haven't got long-term funding.

The majority of our earmarked monies is going to white organisations, but the government doesn't seem to have a problem with Indigenous organisations being totally run by mostly non-Indigenous people.

There are genuine white

people, there are genuine black people who know it's not rocket science to start improving and giving our community back their own leadership and their own environment.

I want to ask if marijuana is the answer.

I've lived in Hawaii. I lived in Jamaica. I've travelled the world and I don't believe that we'd have a massive ice epidemic if marijuana was legalised.

Seeing so much pain and suffering for people in the end stages of cancer, I strongly believe in medical marijuana.

It's not the marijuana that's making people violent; it's the ice, it's the amphetamines combined with alcohol.

If marijuana was legalised they wouldn't have the hydroponics (strong type of marijuana grown inside) because people could have their own bush marijuana.

It's the hydroponics that are giving our people – and others – mental health problems, and we have got a massive mental health problem all around this country because of the non-legalisation of marijuana.

Give the money back to the grassroots people.

What works in Yarrabah may not work in the Torres Strait – isn't that just logical?

They're putting us all under the one black-coloured basket, and one or two people mismanage funding, so they take most of our funding away and give it to non-Indigenous organisations, and then they say, 'Wow, Well, this will top up our till,' so they automatically become interested in Aboriginal affairs – all this rot's got to stop.

Over the past four weeks I've given four seminars to different universities and I'm still giving the same lecture I gave 40 years ago, just changing the date.

What on earth are these politicians doing and what on earth is the community doing? Why are we just so laid back? We've all got to start motivating and coming together on such serious issues.

The Government puts so much attention on the refugees and so much attention on ISIS for goodness sake; it's just dominating the western media.

My people have been at war for 238 bloody years and it just seems like normal behaviour to have a death in custody, normal behaviour for our people to die, and governments are still placing people in jobs that do not relate to the community at the grassroots level.

We know about cleaning up poverty and economic development, but our hands are tied when you've got that very right-winged western talk-down approach that one size fits all.

Pouring money into the problem and giving it to the wrong people is still the problem, not the solution.

Professor Gracelyn Smallwood is a prominent Aboriginal leader with 45 years' experience, nationally and internationally, as a nurse, midwife and human rights activist. She has devoted her career to advocating for the empowerment of Indigenous communities through education, health and economic sustainability, working in some of the most remote parts of Australia.

Graduates having a ball

CONGRATULATIONS to the graduating year of 2015, where 10 students from the Northern Border Senior Access (NBSA) schools of Boggabilla, Collarenebri and Mungindi Central Schools attended a formal function at the Max Centre Chandelier Ballroom in Moree.

The students were resplendent in an array of gowns and suits, with all graduates providing much pride and delight to their families and teachers.

Students Peter Prince and Deanna Prince welcomed the guests to Country in English and Language.

The student address was composed and read magnificently by Tara Williams, highlighting the NBSA motto: We Help Each Other.

Peyton Ramien composed a fitting and more formal graduates' address, reflecting on the graduates' school years and the aspirations the young men and women have for their futures.

The calibre of the students for the special awards was very high with the three awards being very closely contested, and all students should be very proud of their achievements.

The Academic Achievement Award was presented to Peyton Ramien for excelling in her subjects throughout her senior years.

Peter Prince was the recipient of the Excellence in Vocational Education and Training Award for achieving Certificate II in both Kitchen Operations and Community Services, and a School Based Traineeship with the Moree Plains Shire Council.

The Commitment to Succeed Award was presented to Aliesha Prince, for working diligently toward her post-schooling goal, which has not wavered since her primary years of schooling.

There was also an award presented from the New England Institute of TAFE, the TVET Award,



Northern Border Senior Access graduating class, from left, Hayden McGrady (Boggabilla Central School, BCS), Quinon McIntosh (BCS), Baihli Wright (Mungindi Central School, MCS), Liam McGrady (BCS), Peyton Ramien (Collarenebri Central School, CCS), Peter Prince (MCS), Deanna Prince (MCS), Phoebe Newman (CCS), Tara Williams (MCS) and Aliesha Prince (MCS).

recognising Deanna Prince's excellence and aptitude shown throughout her study of Beauty Therapy in Moree.

On the night, a number

of announcements were made as to the immediate futures of some of the students, with a number of them accepted into university for study in 2016.

Eddie Pitt, an Aboriginal Elder from Moree, was our wonderful guest speaker for the night. He reflected briefly on what education was like for him growing up

and the opportunities that all students have now. He congratulated the graduates on getting through to Year 12 and said how very proud he was of their achievements. Mr Pitt also mentioned that all the students have been superb role models for their schools and communities.

In the end, it was quite an emotional night as the teachers farewelled their charges for one last time. The success of these wonderful young people is owed, and not in a small part, to the complete dedication of the teaching staff at the four Central schools. The number of out of school hours and the tears and the tantrums that the teachers have supported these students through is a commitment and an excellence that often goes unacknowledged. The African proverb "It takes a village to raise a child" is no more truer than now.

SHELLY RIDDELL
NBSA coordinator

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Medicare access urged



GIVING prisoners access to Medicare would lead to long-term savings for the Australian health system, say experts.

Inmates have some of the highest rates of mental illness and chronic and communicable

diseases, but rarely get the appropriate treatment or medications before returning to the community.

Given the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all states and territories in prisons, a system which delivered a specific health assessment for them also would have "strong cost-

effectiveness credentials".

Researchers from Melbourne, New South Wales and Griffith universities say prisoners are missing out because health care is too expensive to provide without access to Medicare.

In a *Medical Journal of Australia* article, they say cost sharing between the states, territories and the

Commonwealth would provide prisoners with the same health care as other Australians.

Lead researcher Professor Stuart Kinner says prisoners are excluded from Medicare, with their health care transferred to state and territory government departments.

The researchers say the federal health minister should

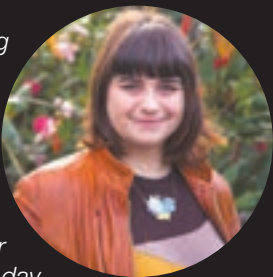
end the prisoners' exclusion from Medicare, so rebates can be claimed for prison-based services in certain circumstances.

"This would allow prisons to retain their existing health service delivery model but enhance service delivery through access to certain Medicare items at minimal cost," Prof Kinner said.

Careers in Regional Offending Behaviour Programs

Information Sessions

"The best part of working in Offending Behaviour Programs is providing psychological assistance to people who are working on enacting behavioural and lifestyle change. It is a great feeling to see a number of offenders complete the program having made positive changes in their lives. You can never predict what the day will bring and it is important to be open, flexible, organised and have a sense of humour." **Sarah, Clinician**



Multiple career opportunities are available across Victoria for registered psychologists, social workers, credentialed mental health nurses and registered occupational therapists to deliver offending behaviour programs across a region/area within the Regional Service Network.

Find out more at the following information sessions:

- 6:00pm, Monday 23 November 2015, Geelong
- 6:00pm, Monday 23 November 2015, Morwell
- 5:30pm, Tuesday 24 November 2015, Bendigo
- 6:00pm, Tuesday 24 November 2015, Shepparton
- 6:00pm, Wednesday 25 November 2015, Wangaratta
- 5:30pm, Thursday 26 November 2015, Ararat
- 6:00pm, Thursday 26 November 2015, Brunswick

Register your attendance at
OBPClinicians@justice.vic.gov.au

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.



Department of Justice and Regulation

Batchelor to take courses to Timor



BATCHELOR Institute (NT) will run a philanthropic program in Timor Leste, with three teacher's aides assisting in the delivery of English language courses.

Batchelor Institute chief executive Robert Somerville said it was an exciting time as they expanded into overseas operations, delivering Certificate I and II Intensive English courses.

"The delivery of these courses will provide valuable skills to the participants and open up more opportunities for them in the region," he said.

"Batchelor Institute has well developed courses related to English language skills through its work in the Indigenous sector over the past 40 years and we look forward to seeing the people of Timor Leste benefit from our experience.

"Out both-ways learning philosophy that has been developed through our work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples easily transcends to other Indigenous cultures, and is one of the key differences between Batchelor and other education providers."

Mr Somerville said they were hopeful of further international expansion in the future.



Batchelor Institute Council chair Professor Markham Rose (centre) and chief executive Robert Somerville with Timor Leste students and other Batchelor representatives.

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Streaming helps businesses



RECENT changes to WA's procurement regulations mean that local government can engage directly

with enterprises registered with the Aboriginal Business Directory (ABD) of WA for contracts up to \$250,000.

Previously, ABDWA businesses had to apply for a tender from local councils for

contracts.

WA Small Business Commissioner David Eaton says that the amendments are great news and believes that it will lead to new markets opening up for ABDWA businesses and Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

"This is yet another great reason why Aboriginal-owned businesses should register with the directory," he said.

The Aboriginal Business

Directory has registered more than 350 businesses across a wide range of industries since its establishment in October 2012.

To be eligible to register with the Aboriginal Business Directory, the business must be WA-owned-and-operated.

Details of the changes are available at www.slp.wa.gov.au

For more details on the Aboriginal Business Directory, visit abdwa.com.au



Archie Roach



Robert Bamblett

Conference calls for unity



Wayne Muir and Tony McCartney.



Phil Cooper, Pat Buckskin and Peter Buckskin.



Helena Gonebale contributes to the NATSIEC possum skin cloak.

Pictures by TYSON AUSTIN



RESPECTED educator Aunty Sara Morgan believes the key to more effective education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is unity.

"As an Elder, I will say we are going to the government divided," she said.

"We should be united, that's how we won in the past. When we did it together."

Ms Morgan was one of hundreds of people who attended the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Conference 2015 (NATSIEC) that was held in Melbourne last week.

A key emphasis of the conference was supporting a holistic approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education by creating cultural connections and focusing on community empowerment and local ownership.

Victorian Aboriginal Education Association president Geraldine Atkinson said that the conference highlights the gaps and areas where things need to improve, and is an opportunity for some of Australia's best thinkers to come together and set the pathway for the future.

High school educator Laura Kelly said that giving Indigenous people, and especially youth, a voice in the education sector was the most important issue that needed to be discussed in relation to Indigenous education.

During the conference, delegates heard from

industry leaders about issues such as the history of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy (AEP), the best practice models for early education and potential opportunities for international collaborations.

Dubbo delegate Robert Riley works with primary-aged children and believes that it is important to have national gatherings like NATSIEC. He said that it is important for Aboriginal people to meet and network and talk about what is working and not working in communities all over the country.

"To learn what has been done in the past and what will be done in the future," he said.

Guest speakers for the conference included Korin Gamadji Institute director Belinda Duarte, Aborigines Advancement League chief executive Esme Bamblett, youth advocate Benson Saulo and Lois Peeler, who led the development of the first-ever independent Aboriginal secondary school in the early 1980s.

The conference included a rich cultural program, with acclaimed musicians like Archie Roach, Dan Sultan and Lou Bennett, while artists Lee Darroch and Vicki Couzens from Banmirra Arts created a possum skin cloak with NATSIEC delegates.

Ms Morgan said that the biggest highlight of NATSIEC 2015 was the knowledge she had learned from the conference.

"The biggest highlight is our Elders can pass on their knowledge to the next generation," she said.



Lou Bennett



Victorian Aboriginal Education Association general manager Lionel Bamblett.

Australia in hot water with UN on human rights issues



AUSTRALIA has come under fire for its treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and for its boat turnback and offshore detention policies at a UN Human Rights Council performance review in Geneva. Given the chance to comment

on Australia's human rights performance, country after country raised the issue of Canberra's controversial asylum seeker policies, many highlighting the detention of children as a key concern. Other areas of concern were Australia's treatment of its Indigenous peoples, same sex marriage equality and progress

made towards Canberra signing an international convention against torture.

Many delegates urged Australia to do more to improve the fortunes of its Indigenous peoples in line with international protocols.

And others also expressed concerns about Australia's treatment of its Indigenous peoples, including high

incarceration rates for young Aboriginal men.

Countries that raised concerns about Australia's asylum seeker policies included Germany, Ireland, Guatemala, France, Greece, Sweden, Japan, Iceland, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Honduras, Djibouti, Ghana, Kenya and Luxembourg.

Australian delegation head

John Reid of the Attorney-General's Department told the council that Canberra's measures to deter migrants had "saved lives at sea".

Mr Reid said gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Australia remained "unacceptably wide" but measures were being taken to improve matters. — AAP

Awards reward 'quiet achievers'



The Arafura Swamp Rangers from Ramingining were named Best NRM Story.



The Crocodile Island Rangers won the award for Indigenous land Management.



THE Northern Territory's Landcare and Natural Resource Management (NRM) Awards were announced last week, recognising the "quiet achievers" who are looking after the Top End's environment.

Amongst the Indigenous winners were Christine Ellis, a Central Land Council ranger from Nyirripi community. She was named Indigenous NRM Champion for her contribution to threatened species recovery and feral cat control in the Tanami Desert. She manages to juggle being a mum to four kids with fulltime work and is considered an excellent role model for other young women.

The Arafura Swamp Rangers from Ramingining were named Best NRM Story for their work managing feral pigs and wetland weed species. Using a durable, compact, high definition geo-referencing camera, they have been able to create a short informative video that shows the community about on-ground activities and the cultural history of certain areas.

The project combines data capture and

representation of NRM activities in a visually appealing way that future generations can access and understand.

The Crocodile Island Rangers who manage the Crocodile Islands off the coast of north east Arnhem land won the award for Indigenous land Management. They manage approximately 40,000 hectares of land, 200km of coastline and 6000 square kilometres of sea country within Castlereagh Bay. Ten fulltime rangers work closely with traditional owners and junior rangers to manage and protect the unique area.

Vanessa Drysdale from Dhimurru won the Australian Government landcare facilitator or coordinator award. She has been facilitator for nearly eight years and in 2014 Dhimurru won the national Clean Beaches Award, a testimony to Vanessa's motivational and organisational skills.

The Indigenous Pastoral Program was named Agricultural NRM Champion. It is a collaboration between traditional owners, pastoralists and government agencies across 34,000 square kilometres of Indigenous land, managing 81,000 head of cattle.



Central Land Council ranger from Nyirripi Christine Ellis is the 2015 NRM Indigenous NRM Champion.



The Indigenous Pastoral Program was named NRM Champion.

Policy promotes new contracts



INDIGENOUS public relations company 33 Creative has been awarded a contract with the

Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), which was made possible by the Indigenous procurement policy.

ACMC approached Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to produce its upcoming leadership DVD, using the Federal Government's new Indigenous procurement policy, which means 3% of government contracts will be awarded to Indigenous businesses by 2020.

ACMC's executive director Dr Alan Ryan said that the ACMC needed to source outside expertise to create high-quality resources and that 33 Creative was offering what they were looking for.

33 Creative directors Georgia Cordukes and Mayrah Sonter said the project was their first with a non-Indigenous organisation.

"It is a great opportunity to move into other content areas and develop relationships with new clients," Ms Cordukes said.

Ms Sonter said, without the Indigenous procurement policy, their company would not have had the opportunity for bid for the contract.



Back, from left, Lyndon McCauley, Heather Emery, Georgia Cordukes, Greg Elliott. Front, from left, Alan Ryan and Mayrah Sonter.

Mental issues causing crime

By NATALIE CROMB



A NEW study paints a bleak but accurate picture of justice for Indigenous Australians,

particularly those with mental health or cognitive disabilities.

NSW University (UNSW) criminologist Professor Eileen Baldry authored the report 'A predictable and preventable path: Aboriginal people with mental and cognitive disabilities in the criminal justice system', with colleagues Ruth McCausland, Leanne Dowse and Elizabeth McEntyre.

They considered 670 Indigenous prisoners over the past 30 years of interactions with police and the court system.

The participants all suffered from mental health disorders like depression, schizophrenia, psychosis or cognitive disabilities such as intellectual disability, brain injury or foetal alcohol syndrome.

The report found Aboriginal people with mental and cognitive disability are often forced into the criminal justice system early in life. Coming from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds, they receive little support from community and disability services or the education system.

These people are often seen as badly behaved or too hard to control, and left to police to manage. While this also applies to

non-Indigenous people with disability from disadvantaged backgrounds, the report found it's much more serious for Indigenous people.

Indigenous people in the group studied were 2.6 times more likely to have been in out-of-home care as children. Their age of first contact with police was 3.4 years younger than non-Indigenous people, and they had a higher rate of contact with police as both victim and offender.

needs (multiple diagnoses and disability) – particularly women – were the most disadvantaged. And Indigenous people from highly disadvantaged areas, especially regional and remote areas, fared the worst.

The authors of the report suggest that there are four main factors for these glaring results. That people simply do not understand what a cognitive disability is; there are high levels of stress in Aboriginal communities due to socioeconomic factors and trans-generational trauma from governmental policies; many Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system have complex support needs; and, finally, there is a lack of appropriate resources and support for Aboriginal people suffering with mental health and cognitive disability issues. All of these factors equate to what is a demonstrable breach of human rights.

"It is absolutely clear that this group of people are put on a train into the criminal justice system because they are being managed from an early age by the police and that is criminalising their behaviour," Professor Baldry said.

The report suggests that early diagnosis of mental health issues or cognitive disabilities coupled with the appropriate support and treatment can prevent a significant number of Aboriginal sufferers ending up in the criminal justice system's revolving door.

The report found Aboriginal people with mental and cognitive disability are often forced into the criminal justice system early in life.

Indigenous people were 2.4 times more likely to be in juvenile justice custody than non-Indigenous people. And they had higher numbers and rates of convictions and more episodes of remand in prison (unsentenced).

Indigenous people had higher rates of hospital admissions and were 1.2 times more likely to have been homeless – in a group with very high rates of homelessness generally. Those with complex



Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Minister Natalie Hutchins.

Website helps councils engage



VICTORIA'S Aboriginal Affairs Minister Natalie Hutchins has

launched a new web-based resource for local councils to work more closely with Aboriginal communities.

Developed by Reconciliation Victoria, the Maggolee website provides information on how each council engages with the Aboriginal community, as well as information on local traditional owners and Aboriginal organisations, key contacts, demographic data,

and services.

"The Maggolee website is a fantastic resource for councils and communities, providing information, ideas and an opportunity for engagement," Ms Hutchins said.

The website also includes case studies on how councils can better partner with Aboriginal communities on service delivery, the arts, reconciliation, land use, planning and cultural heritage, and support Aboriginal employment and economic participation.

For more information visit www.maggolee.org.au

OCHRE report released



NSW Aboriginal Affairs Minister Leslie Williams has released the 'OCHRE: Two Years On' report which outlines the progress of the Government's plan for Aboriginal affairs.

OCHRE stands for Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility and Empowerment and is a blueprint that contains numerous initiatives to improve the delivery of programs by the Department.

"OCHRE is a significant departure from previous approaches," Mrs Williams said.

"For the first time, Local Decision Making alliances have the power to direct government services to areas of need. Two years on, the success of OCHRE relies on the NSW Government listening, responding and working with local communities."

The OCHRE plan covers a number of areas, including employment, education and other government services.

This year, 3769 NSW students are learning an Aboriginal language; this is the first time the NSW Government has measured the uptake of Aboriginal languages by school students.

Connected Communities operates in

15 schools across the state, delivering a range of services from birth, through school, to further training and employment.

The report highlights progress in numerous areas including improved attendance at primary school. Opportunity hubs that connect school students with career advice and job opportunities are now being accessed by 95 schools. Three industry-based agreements have been signed and implemented, and employment of Aboriginal people in the NSW public sector (2.9%) exceeds the national target of 2.6%.

OCHRE also aims to increase input

and empowerment of local communities and the accountability of government through the Local Decision Making initiative. So far, six regional alliances have been formed.

Sam Jefferies, chair of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly in Western NSW, worked with his community to sign the first formal accord with the NSW Government.

"Local Decision Making is the most exciting initiative to enter the government services and program areas that impact on Aboriginal people. The level of openness and transparency is unprecedented," Mr Jefferies said.



Red Cross staff John Fitz, Derek Clarke and Emma Newman in Tennant Creek with one of the fridge gardens.

Cool gardening tips



RED Cross staff are finding cool new uses for old fridges, turning them into garden beds, allowing people in one of

the most remote parts of Australia to grow their own vegetables.

Red Cross began the Above Ground Household Garden project in Tennant Creek in 2013, enabling 30 households in the town, 500km north of Alice Springs, to make water-efficient garden beds out of fridges and old drums.

Red Cross community development officer Emma Newman said many houses have no garden and some yards are almost completely made up of hard bare rock,

with very few trees.

"The soil here can be very dry and hard and it's very hot for much of the year," she said. "People would say that they would like a garden, but were not sure how to go about it. Using a 'wicking bed' model, which retains moisture in a reservoir from underneath, we learnt how to make efficient garden beds out of fridges and other large containers."

"We started collecting fridges, foam boxes and drums, and gave them out to households for small veggie gardens in their own yards. We would then go back, working alongside the household members, fill the beds and plant."

"There are some restrictions through the seasons, with extreme heat

our greatest challenge, so we try to work in the morning," she said.

Derek Clarke says he was thrilled to successfully apply for the position at Red Cross for the Above Ground Garden worker.

He works alongside cultural support worker John Fitz, to visit people who have asked for a garden bed.

"I'm happy to meet new clients, and watching them have happy faces when their veggie garden pops up, all ready to pick," Mr Clarke said.

The project is going well and the next stage is to build up a good supply of compost.

"Every time we drop in we notice they watered it already," Mr Fitz said. "We're just helping make sure they maintain it."



BUNDJALUNG (NSW) woman Amelia Telford has been named Young

Conservationist of the Year by the Australian Geographic Society (AGS).

Ms Telford has previously been named NAIDOC's 2014 Youth of the Year and last month was named Young Environmentalist of the Year by the Bob Brown Foundation.

After finishing high school in 2012, Ms Telford put her plans to study medicine on hold and joined the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. In July 2014 she founded SEED, a network of young Aboriginal people that provides training for those who want to campaign in the areas of climate change, sustainability and conservation.

The AGS Awards are Australia's longest running awards for adventure and conservation.



Amelia Telford.

Disability scheme heralds changes



THE Ballina (northern NSW) Aboriginal Disability Network Group held a community circle

gathering at the Ballina RSL to provide the local Aboriginal community with information, guidance and advice regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The group has been in operation for the past four years and has been working with community stakeholders across the Northern Rivers to prepare Aboriginal people with a disability and their families for the NDIS, which is scheduled to roll out in the Northern Rivers region in July 2017.

The community circle saw more than 100 members of the local Aboriginal community yarning with a range of local

disability service providers about what the NDIS and what it will mean for local Aboriginal people with disability, families, carers and the community.

Dave Kapeen, Aboriginal development officer at Tweed, Byron & Ballina Community Transport, said the disability services sector was changing.

"The rollout of the NDIS represents a significant opportunity for our people to participate fully in decisions about their own lives," he said.

"The coming changes mean that people with disability will have choice and control that has not been afforded to them in the past."

"We aim to ensure that information on getting prepared is readily available and this information day is an important first step in that process."



NACCHO HEALTH NEWS

Australia's first national Aboriginal Community Controlled Health newspaper

EDITION 5

NOVEMBER 2015

PHONE: (02) 6246 9309



Aboriginal health is in good hands

ALICIA Hari, a Health Promotion Officer, and Lucrecia Willett, a Healthy Lifestyle Officer, are pictured at the Gurriny Yealamuca Health Service in Yarrabah, far north Queensland. They are just two of the approximately 300 board, staff and community members in 20 urban, regional and remote NACCHO member organisations being interviewed for our *Aboriginal health in Aboriginal hands* for healthy futures video series and 2016 photographic exhibition roadshow. More details on pages 6 and 7.

Health Plan welcomed by NACCHO Members

THE launch of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Health Implementation Plan by Rural Health Minister Fiona Nash in October is another important milestone on the long path towards achieving the goals of Australian governments to Close the Gap in child mortality and life expectancy.

Matthew Cooke, Chair of NACCHO, said the goals of the implementation plan aligned with the close the gap targets to see equality in health outcomes within a generation.

"This is a critical piece of the puzzle to improve the health outcomes for Aboriginal people – a long term, whole of government health implementation plan, from cradle to grave, that recognises the impacts of racism and discrimination inherent in the mainstream health system," he said. "It looks to the people who have runs on the board, those in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector, to play a key role, and offers further

opportunities for our Services to grow and deliver more primary health care to more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"We congratulate Minister Fiona Nash on seeing this through – a process started by the former government but broadly informed by the Aboriginal health sector.

"Sick kids can't get to school; adults that suffer poor health find it difficult to sustain jobs. That's why getting this right is so important."

Mr Cooke said the next steps had to be complementary commitment to long-term funding against the implementation plan, outside election cycles, as part of the bi-partisan approach to close the gap.

Mr Cooke said NACCHO was looking forward to working with government to implement the plan and continuing to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

Ian Ring, a professorial fellow at the Australian Health Services Research Institute at the University of Wollongong, contributed the

following to NACCHO: "It is potentially a game-changer and comes at a critical time for Australia's Indigenous people, following the threats to remote Indigenous communities in WA, cuts to major programs such as those aimed at reducing smoking by Indigenous people, and what is widely seen as a debacle with changes to the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

Concepts

"It was generally recognised that the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan, launched by former Indigenous health minister Warren Snowdon, needed an implementation plan to turn the concepts in that document to services which would actually alter what happens on the ground, and deliver the services which are needed to Close the Gap. Of course the NATSIHIP isn't really a fully developed implementation plan at this stage, and probably couldn't be,

but it does have the architecture of one, and recognises most of the key elements. Full credit to Minister Nash and to the National Indigenous Health Leadership Forum for reaching this stage.

"The NATSIHIP recognises the central importance of culture and racism in shaping Indigenous health and, for the first time, starts to come to grips with the obvious question of what services are needed to Close the Gap, what workforce is required and how would they be paid for. Most importantly, it focuses on the need to identify the areas with relatively poor health and not enough services, to make capacity building of services in those areas a priority. Some health gains are possible through improvements to services for people already receiving some kind of service, but much more gain is possible through provision of services to those who aren't receiving them or aren't receiving adequate services.

"But the real work lies ahead. The

key question of identifying a set of services required to Close the Gap remains to be tackled, although fortunately there is some excellent work on this topic in the NT that can be used as a starting point.

"Once the services are clearly defined, then the workforce requirements and funding strategies can be developed. This does not mean that there is an inbuilt assumption of an unlimited bucket of money to fund services, but it does imply shifting the current ad hoc inequitable and inefficient funding mechanisms to a more rational basis and clearly identifying service gaps for government consideration.

"So, the first key point is that the NATSIHIP is not a one-off, static, glossy piece of paper. Rather it is an ongoing process whose aim is the continuous improvement of services. The goals are achievable but require high quality services delivered in the right way. That is the job of the NATSIHIP and it is to be achieved,

● Continued page 5

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CEO's Farewell Report



Visiting many of our Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, like Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service in Ballina, northern NSW (pictured here) has been a highlight.

WELCOME to another edition of the *NACCHO Health News*. NACCHO will be holding our Annual Members Conference in Terrigal, NSW, this year and I would like to congratulate Yerin Aboriginal Health Service for their 20th Anniversary and inviting us to join them to celebrate their achievements.

I am sending all our readers a farewell message as the NACCHO CEO, and wish to thank you for your ongoing support.

I have been truly humbled and privileged to nationally represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector.

I leave knowing that the NACCHO secretariat is financially sound. NACCHO Members have three-year funding certainty valued at \$448 million annually – \$1.4 billion over three years.

Department of Health Funding Agreements will be improved; there is continuation of the Quality Use of Medicines (QUMAX) initiative amongst 76 NACCHO members with 218,549 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people benefiting; our Aboriginal



Lisa Briggs

Health Workers remain recognised through the provision of MBS 715 Health Assessments; and the Closing the Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme valued at \$85 million will be ongoing.

I would like to thank NACCHO Chair Matthew Cooke, NACCHO Vice Chair Sandy Davies and Company Secretary Chris O'Connell for all the support they have provided, the NACCHO Board and, in particular, the Staff. What a wonderful team they are.

I wish the NACCHO Chair, Board, Staff and Members all the best in ensuring Health Equality and Equity is achieved for our people.

**Yours in solidarity,
Lisa Briggs
NACCHO CEO**

YOUTH PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH DIGITAL STORIES

IN RESPONSE TO the need for more active health promotion to youth, Townsville community controlled health service, TAIHS, has engaged in an innovative project to effectively target Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

Using a combination of video, photography and digital design, the team engaged by TAIHS produced a series of health promotion resources that will be rolled out in communities in October.

The project involved a series of workshops with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who were asked to choose a health promotion topic. They worked with the team engaged by TAIHS to choose how they wished to promote this subject, using a combination of video to create 'digital stories', social media, photography and digital design. Students involved came from Bwgcolman Community School (Palm Island), Shalom Christian College (Townsville) and St Teresa's College (Abergowrie). These students are currently completing their Certificate II in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health through Registered Training Organisation, Connect 'n' Grow.

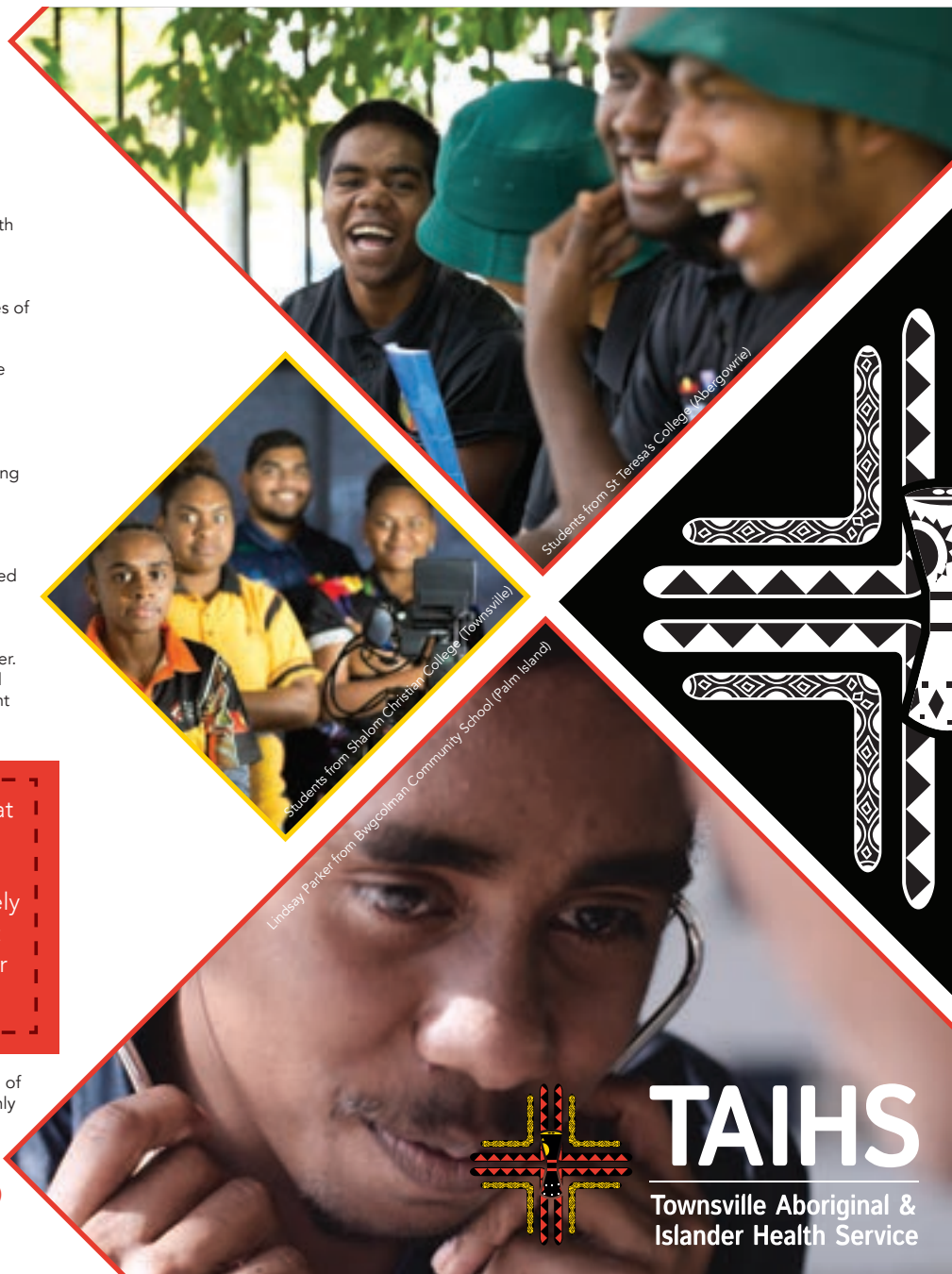
Three Indigenous Health Workers supported and mentored the students through the project, helping them to identify health issues affecting their generation and communities and encouraging them to use the digital resources to tell their story. CATSINAM Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Aunty Diane Ross also supported the students through this process.

Young people comprise the most significant and fastest growing sector of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, with the 2011 census data indicating that 56% of this market are aged 25 years or younger. Within this group, there are specific issues such as mental illness, domestic violence, intellectual disability and alcohol and drug use which are significant risk factors for a young person, impacting their health, development and educational attainment.

"We needed to find a way to communicate with this large market in a way that would actively engage them. We recognised that video and social media is where the youth market is today. By developing this series of videos (digital stories), photography and promotional materials, we are confident of effectively reaching and engaging with the market, which we ultimately hope will result in more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people making use of our services," said Kath Anderson, CEO of TAIHS.

"This program was a wonderful and empowering experience for the students involved and is a great example of partnership in action. The students have taken ownership of the project and through this, they have thoroughly engaged in the process and carefully considered their key messages to their peer groups."

The range of health promotion resources will be displayed at the Townsville All Blacks Carnival (23-24 October) and the Here 4 Life concert (21 November) and available online at www.taihs.net.au





Yalata and the Australian Trachoma Alliance partner to eliminate trachoma

THE National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation is proud to be part of an alliance which has signed an agreement with Yalata community in South Australia to stamp out Trachoma – a leading cause of preventable blindness in a number of remote Aboriginal communities.

The agreement between the Yalata Community, near Ceduna in South Australia, and the Australian Trachoma Alliance (ATA)*, headed by former Governor General Major General Michael Jeffery, commits to working together on an action plan to address the key causes of trachoma.

NACCHO Chairperson Matthew Cooke said it was disappointing that Australia remained the only Western country affected by the disease.

"Trachoma is a contagious bacterial infection, which if left untreated can lead to corneal scarring and eventually blindness," he said.

"In remote communities such as Yalata it is spread through overcrowding, poor hygiene and substandard environmental health conditions – all of which can be addressed by effective planning and education.

"Poor eye sight affects learning, it affects health and it affects a person's ability to care for their family, with devastating impacts on the welfare of entire



Members of the Yalata community with the agreement aimed at stamping out Trachoma.

families. We need to move beyond treating trachoma through surgery or antibiotics to preventing infection and reinfection in the first place."

Major General Jeffery said the ATA's Safe Eyes Project was mostly funded by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Trust which is working to eliminate causes of preventable blindness in Commonwealth countries.

Yalata is one of three desert communities in central Australia

taking part by addressing facial hygiene and environmental health, which will improve eye health and also help reduce the incidence of other communicable diseases such as rheumatic fever and gastroenteritis.

"This commitment has been initiated by the Yalata community – it's not people coming in from outside and telling them what should be done," Major General Jeffrey said.

"A key principle of the

commitment is the Yalata community controls the planning process so it works for them and builds on existing health and Trachoma programs, with support from the ATA. Community resources will be used wherever possible."

*ATA members are NACCHO, The Fred Hollows Foundation, Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust Australia, Vision 2020 and the Indigenous Eye Health Unit at the University of Melbourne.

Facts about Trachoma

- A clean face and clean environment are key prevention strategies to combat Trachoma.

- More than 50 developing countries in Africa and Asia are still affected by Trachoma.

- In 2009 the Australian Government made a commitment to eliminate blinding trachoma from Aboriginal communities.

- Trachoma remains prevalent in many remote communities.

- Like conjunctivitis and other bacterial infections spread by contact, it particularly affects children.

- In Alice Springs in 2014 the ATA convened a forum of Aboriginal Controlled Community Owned Health Organisations from the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia to discuss how trachoma can be eliminated in their communities.

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Members welcome health plan

● From page 1

not through words, but with services and actions on a continuing long-term basis, and a small combined Indigenous/government oversight group for that purpose is essential.

“What is missing at this stage? Firstly, a process to define the core services and associated workforce and funding strategies. Secondly, “training opportunities” need to become a formal national training plan. Much greater value will be achieved from funds for Indigenous health services if all those involved are actually trained in how best to provide those services. This means training public servants in health planning, health administration and the core elements of Indigenous health, training clinicians in technical and cultural aspects of Indigenous health, and managers and board members of health service organisations. And everyone involved needs to understand, live and breathe Continuous Quality Improvement.

“It also means much improved management and information processes. A dedicated share of the eHealth budget is required to ensure funds to monitor and support continuity of care and quality improvement across both mainstream and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS). Management needs to be reshaped from a blind contract management process to a mutual, shared process between funder and service provider process which will guarantee return on investment.

“Targets”

“And much more work needs to be done to develop a sensible set of targets (badged as “Goals” in the Implementation Plan). The National Indigenous Health Equality Targets developed by a broad range of organisations is a sensible starting point. These targets identified the health issues responsible for the life expectancy and child mortality gaps (chronic disease, low birth weight etc), defined services required for those topics, spelt-out infrastructure requirements (workforce and funding) and the central importance of social determinants.

“The targets identified in the NATSIHIP seemed to have been framed to present predictions from current trajectories and rather miss the point. A target is an aspiration, not a prediction, and needs to bear a logical relationship with the overall Goal (Close the Gap) and with the level of investment in a given time period. The level of health gain is closely linked to the degree of service enhancement that is possible. For this reason, the critical targets at this stage are those for service provision and can really only be set when the core service requirements are defined.

“The success of the NATSIHIP will ultimately turn on all these elements and particularly on building up ACCHS services in areas lacking sufficient services, lifting the standard of mainstream services and formal structures and mechanisms for both types of services to work constructively together in each region of Australia.

“There is still a long way to go, but everyone involved, including Minister Nash and the Indigenous health leaders, should be congratulated for reaching this stage.”

PHCAG submission made by NACCHO

THE Australian Government is currently undertaking reform of primary health care. That broad reform is focused on three priority areas: the Medicare Benefits Schedule, Primary Health Care, and Medicare compliance rules and benchmarks.

A Primary Health Care Advisory Group (PHCAG) has been established by the Government and tasked with providing advice to it in the priority area of Primary Health Care.

NACCHO developed and provided a Submission to the Primary Health Care Advisory Group (PHCAG), which responded to four themes in a Discussion Paper released by the PHCAG.

For the first of those themes, which related to effective and appropriate patient care, NACCHO's submission made the point that, in 2012-13, the 141 ACCHOs provided over 2.4 million episodes of care services to over 316,000 clients, about 252,000 of whom were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Further, that against national key performance indicators, ACCHOs punch well above their weight.

The submission's response to the second theme – relating to increased use of technology – highlighted the advantage ACCHOs have over mainstream providers, building on the information management uses of electronic patient information recall systems which originated in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector.

Particular mention was made in the submission of the innovations that are already on the ground now, such as the Remote Outback Satellite Infrastructure Enablement (ROSIE) project, telemedicine and telehealth, and the development of sophisticated decision

National Key Performance Indicators (nKPIs) for primary health care		
Summary of results for ACCHOs		
Measure	Change in proportion Dec 2012 – Dec 2013	Change in count Dec 2012 – Dec 2013
*Process of care measures		
First antenatal visit (at <13 weeks)(a)	Λ	Λ
Birthweight recorded	Λ	Λ
MBS health assessments		
0-4 years	Λ	Λ
25 years and over	Λ	Λ
Cervical screening(a)	~	Λ
Clients aged 50+ immunised against influenza(a)	~	Λ
Clients with type 2 diabetes immunised against influenza(a)	Λ	Λ
Clients with COPD immunised against influenza(a)	Λ	Λ
Clients with type 2 diabetes with an MBS General Practice Management Plans in the last 2 years	Λ	Λ
Clients with type 2 diabetes with an MBS Team Care Arrangements in the last 2 years	Λ	Λ
Clients with type 2 diabetes with anHbA1c test recorded in the last 6 months	~	Λ
Clients with type 2 diabetes with kidney function test recorded(a) in the last 12 months	~	Λ
Clients with CVD with kidney function test recorded in the last 12 months	~	Λ
Clients with type 2 diabetes with blood pressure test recorded in the last 6 months	V	Λ
Smoking status recorded	Λ	Λ
Alcohol consumption recorded in the last 2 years	Λ	Λ
Outcome Measures		
Birthweight result (normal)(a)	~	Λ
HbA1c result < / = 7% in last 6 months	Λ	Λ
Clients with type 2 diabetes with blood pressure < / = 130/80 mmHg	~	Λ
Smoking status result (never smoked)(a)	~	Λ
BMI result (overweight or obese)	Λ	V

(a): Indicator has data for two time periods only, June and December 2013
~: Favourable trend. V: Unfavourable trend. ~: no change for the proportion, less than 1.00 percentage points change for progress of care indicators, less than 0.50 percentage points change for outcome indicators, change of less than 1.00% for the national count.

support tools for planning service delivery and community engagement.

Responding to the third theme – how it would be known that we were achieving outcomes – NACCHO's submission discussed the national key performance indicators (nKPIs), while also pointing out that more robust data sets were needed.

NACCHO advocated that primary health

networks and other mainstream services should be required to report against the nKPIs.

In relation to the fourth theme – how to establish a suitable payment system to support a better primary health care system – NACCHO called for the discontinuation of the MBS Item rebate indexation freeze in place until July 2018 and for the introduction of annual indexation.

NACCHO's submission advocated immediate restoration of indexation for MBS Items because MBS self-generated income is critical to ACCHOs developing and sustaining their service delivery model and expanding their proven capacity to Close the Gap.

The submission expressed particular concern about the future of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Chronic Disease Fund (CDF), which continued the majority of activities funded under the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package (ICDP). NACCHO urged government to continue to invest in the CDF.

NACCHO's submission was critical of the lack of progress around the new funding allocation methodology announced at the time of the establishment of the Indigenous Australians' Health Program in 2014 and the commitment to begin consultations with NACCHO that was confirmed in May 2015 in the 2015-16 Budget Papers.

The submission referred to a detailed grants funding analysis of 'Minchin Motion' data tabled in the Senate, as well as data on the Department of Health's web site, jointly undertaken by NACCHO and QAIHC, which demonstrated the urgent need to apply a rational grants funding allocation to the scheduled transfer of Aboriginal health programme grants funds from Medicare Locals to primary Health Networks.

NACCHO appears before Senate Select Committee on Health

On October 8, 2015, NACCHO appeared before the Senate Select Committee on Health in Canberra. We raised eight key points with the three Senators who attended. Their current inquiry relates to health policy, administration and expenditure.

A key theme Chairperson Matthew Cooke and other representatives underlined throughout the hour-long appearance was the concerns NACCHO has regarding our access to data, its integrity and timeliness.

NACCHO and QAIHC, working together, have had great difficulty in identifying all the monies allocated to Aboriginal Health in the Department's budget to Medicare Locals being transitioned to the new PHNs, and raised the issue of the Minchin Motion grants reporting.

This was a Motion agreed to by the Senate in 2008 that all departments and agencies must produce a list and details of all grants approved in each portfolio or agency no later than seven days before each of the three annual parliamentary estimates hearings

We underlined in detail what an obscure process this was and that a lot more rigour should be applied to the way in which money is transferred across from Medicare Locals to Primary Health Networks (PHNs). We reiterated that PHNs should not automatically receive the Aboriginal health program fund grants which the Medicare Locals previously administered. We also outlined that the allocation of funds to different geographical regions does not appear to be

informed by either epidemiological or Aboriginal population figures.

The Chairperson raised the concern that there is no requirement for Aboriginal representation on the new PHN Boards, though some in Queensland have ensured that there are Aboriginal board members.

In response to questioning from Cairns-based Senator Jan McLucas, the Chairperson advised that the Department had requested payment of \$40,000 from NACCHO for them to compile the information we were seeking. Surprised at this large payment demand, the Chairperson, Senator O'Neill, kindly offered the services of the

At several points in response to questions, we outlined NACCHO's continuing opposition to elements of Aboriginal Health being administered by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) rather than the Health Department.

assembled Senators to seek this information on our behalf should we be asked for such a payment in the future.

It was raised with the Committee that there is an excess burden placed by the Department on ACCHOs with respect to the proposed new Standard Funding Agreement. The Chairperson underlined the increasing micromanagement by the Department, which takes time and resources away from the key priority of providing health service delivery and closing the gap.

In our written submission, which was tabled, we outlined the need to improve patient journeys between ACCHOs and the mainstream public sector. Four areas of most concern that we mentioned were: maternal and child health; social and emotional wellbeing including mental health; chronic diseases; and access to hospital services.

At several points in response to questions we outlined NACCHO's continuing opposition to elements of Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) being administered by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) rather than the Health Department.

Sandy Gillies from QAIHC gave evidence that siloing social and emotional wellbeing, and substance misuse, within PM&C rather than the Health Department, is confusing from a policy perspective and even more difficult from an operational and service model perspective. She stated that it also duplicates reporting. The Chairperson raised at this point the strong concerns surrounding NACCHO's membership of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Advisory Group having been withdrawn by Minister Scullion, based on the premise that NACCHO's directors, many of whom work for ACCHOs, do not come from the 'coalface' of Aboriginal health.

The Committee provided NACCHO with a fair hearing and used some of the questions we raised when senior bureaucrats subsequently appeared before the Committee. NACCHO looks forward to reading the final report and recommendations on this important subject.



Quality business services at affordable rates

The Business Quality Centre (BQC) was established in 2011 by QAIHC to meet a service delivery gap in professional Financial, Human Resource and Information and Communication Technology services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Organisations. The BQC provides professional business services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Not for Profit organisations from industries such as Health, Dental, Housing, Children's Services, Home and Community Care and Drug and Alcohol Services.

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Dallas Leon - Chief Executive Officer



" Goolburri Aboriginal Health Advancement Co Ltd have used the services of BQC since their inception. One of the major benefits for me is that they free up my time and allow me to concentrate on my core business which is delivering great health care for my community.

Elizabeth Adams - Chief Executive Officer



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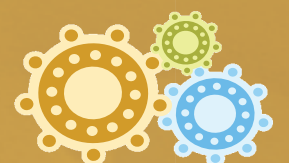


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Aboriginal Health in Aboriginal hands



Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Caboolture (south-east Queensland) CEO Renee Blackman, who was interviewed.



Photographer Wayne Quilliam gets down to it at Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service in Ballina, northern NSW, where Aboriginal men involved at all levels were interviewed.



Male health staff at the award-winning Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service in Canberra have their say as part of the project.



A dental team from Yulu-Burri-Ba Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health in Brisbane on the job.



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Photographs being taken of head gardener Sophia Byers at the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Co-op Ltd's (western NSW) Community Market Gardens.



for *Healthy Futures* video series

IN May this year NACCHO engaged a production team to record and edit interviews with Aboriginal health leaders and community members in about 20 urban, rural and remote member locations throughout all states and territories of Australia.

At each site, NACCHO will be producing a summary 30-minute video featuring interviews with the board, CEO, medical, Aboriginal Health Workers, Health Promotion Teams and community members.

Award-winning Aboriginal photographer Wayne Quilliam was appointed Creative Director to record videos and still photographs with Yale McGillivray, a young Aboriginal woman appointed Managing Editor for the project. The original pilot and Redfern AMS was produced by NITV.

As at November, 14 sites around Australia have been recorded.

All full interviews (about 300 of them) will be available for viewing on NACCHO TV YouTube channel and website (subject to members and interviewee approval), and videos and photographs will be available to each NACCHO participating member service for websites and community CDS and so on.

Once edited down into a 30-minute format, all 20 episodes will be made available to NITV and other Aboriginal media groups for broadcast and other projects. All Interview footage will also be available for specialist educational video compilations for governance, management, doctors, Aboriginal Health Worker and so on.

Proposed Close the Gap 10th Anniversary National Aboriginal Healthy Futures photography and video Exhibition roadshow 2016

It is proposed to develop a travelling interactive roadshow consisting of about 20-30 images from the series to achieve the following objectives:

Healthy Futures Videos will highlight how investing in NACCHO, the national authority in comprehensive Aboriginal primary health care and its 150 members, will lead to generational change and Close the Gap.

In our *Healthy Futures Videos* interviews with ACCHO chairs, board members, CEOs, Management, Doctors, Dentists, Chemists, Aboriginal Health Workers/Allied Health workers and health promotional teams, they will highlight how our national Aboriginal health leaders play an important role in ensuring Aboriginal health remains in Aboriginal hands through the vast network of these Aboriginal community controlled health organisations.

Healthy Futures Videos will highlight success stories that our Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) are making towards Closing the Gap targets and key priorities in areas such as Early Childhood development

They will illustrate how keeping our people well and on the road to good health through our ACCHOs is a key objective of NACCHO and all our members.

Healthy Futures Videos will highlight how we achieve this is by working in collaboration with our national partners and stakeholders to address the expansion of our health services and to meet the growing health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in urban, rural and remote Australia.

The Exhibition

Using QR codes, these images will link to interviews through phones or ipads.

Negotiations are under way to launch the CTG exhibition at Parliament House, Canberra, on the anniversary next year, and then make the portable exhibition available to participating members and affiliates to hold their own state-based events.

The exhibition will also be offered to other major Aboriginal and Health conferences who wish to celebrate Aboriginal Health and Close the Gap.

Award-winning Aboriginal photographer Wayne Quilliam taking images for the project at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service Co-operative Ltd.



An image from the Pius X Aboriginal Corporation Children's Group at Moree, NSW.



● Above: Yerin Aboriginal Health Services Inc (Wyong, NSW) chair Roy Ah See being pictured.

● Left: Melva Johnson at Njernda Aboriginal Corporation in Echuca, Victoria.



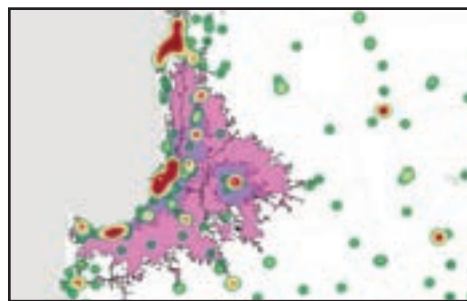
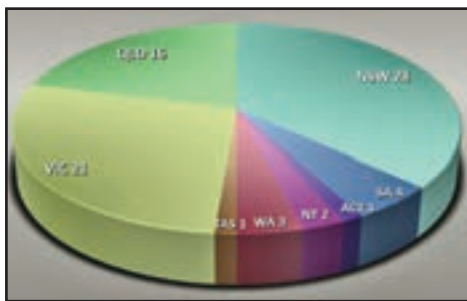


Bringing Aboriginal Health information together with maps and graphics

GRAPHS and pie charts help to have a look at masses of data but they do not show us where events are occurring, where patients are coming from, what area is being covered by which programme, and where there are gaps in our service delivery.

The NACCHO Board, at its meeting in September, approved a Health Information Strategic Plan. The Board directed the Secretariat to develop a map-based information system. This component of NACCHO's Evidence Base is to assist in understanding the huge quantity of data that is now available and to use it effectively.

The data is both in the public domain – i.e. on websites – or can be from our Sector's own internal data sources. The Health Information Strategic Plan requires the development of tools which will be available to ACCHOs, Regional bodies of ACCHOs,



Examples of graphs and charts which help with masses of data.

and Affiliates to create map-based presentations of data that will assist their service planning and reporting and support identification of new services or emerging health need in funding applications.

NACCHO convened a Forum with the Affiliates on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) and Information Management (IM) in May.

Input from the Forum helped inform the Health Information Strategic Plan.

One example of this map-based tool has been to gain a better understanding of areas of access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in regional communities to existing health services provided by ACCHOs, private GPs and Government hospitals.

Research by QAIHC has shown that where an ACCHO is accessible within a one-hour drive, the number of clients is between 90% and 120% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population recorded in the Census. NACCHO is in the process of making regional maps and summary ABS Statistics available to all Member Services.

At the 2015 NACCHO Annual Members Meeting and Conference in Terrigal, NSW, a workshop will be conducted for interested members.

Making better and more applied use of information is vital for the planning and sustainable operations of our Services and for preserving the position of ACCHOs as the preferred provider of holistic and comprehensive primary health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the country.

Quality is what we do, but we have the opportunity to tell our stories with a powerful voice

QUALITY care is what we do, but in the future we have opportunity to tell our stories with even more powerful evidence-based voices. This was a key message from NACCHO's recent CQI Round Table to build an ACCHO Sector collective understanding of the new National Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care.

Meeting at The Hyatt, Canberra, 18 Member Services Australia-wide from remote, regional and urban communities together with six Peak Affiliates and NACCHO shared knowledge and experiences for interpreting and using the Framework prepared for the Commonwealth Department of Health by the Lowitja Institute.

Steps to develop local CQI Action Plans by ACCHOs due on December 31 this year formed a major part of business discussions. These included a close look, from a local client/patient service viewpoint, at the specified nine of the Framework's 15 core components listed by the Department as local Action Plan guides.

When Member Services' Models of Care were thoughtfully mapped against the nine guiding components, it became clear ACCHOs were functioning at many high levels of quality performance that the Framework was seeking to define.

Lots of discussion examples emerged of everyday ACCHO quality work aligning with the Framework and ripe for Action Plans. These included cultural safety; client/community centred and empowered care; multidisciplinary teamwork for health promotion, early intervention and the smooth patient journey; community partnerships; workplace professional learning; the why, what and how of user friendly clinical software data collection; cultural access to population health information; and actively keeping the stories and organisational memories of each Service's quality history.



Representatives of the 18 Member Services Australia-wide from remote, regional and urban communities together with six Peak Affiliates and NACCHO workers at the Hyatt in Canberra.

ACCHO strategic, annual business and service agreement activity plans, team reviews and similar also set actions to achieve these everyday quality ways of providing care.

The new Framework's big difference is its emphasis on PDSA Cycles. These

involve: Plan – checking the ACCHO's local population health data to discover what improvement changes to service activities are needed; Do – testing these changes in every day service activity; Study – measuring if changes worked; and Act – implementing long term the changes that

worked; before re-starting the cycle with a fresh look at local data.

NACCHO is now finalising a special consultative report for all Member Services to assist their CQI Action Plan preparations based on the Round Table conclusions.



Better access to medicines will help to close the gap

A RANGE of practical changes to Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme will boost the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessing appropriate medicines and help close the health gap between Aboriginal and other Australians.

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (The Guild) have released a national Joint Position Paper calling for improvements in the CTG PBS Co-payment measure.

Introduced in 2010, the Closing the Gap Co-Payment measure reduces or removes the patient co-payment for PBS medicines for eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients living with, or at risk of chronic disease.

Some of the key points the position paper raises are the need for the measure to:

- Link CTG eligibility to the patient's Medicare Card to improve privacy, and so that the patient is eligible regardless of who the prescriber is or where their medicine is dispensed;
- expand the PBS listing to include more common medicines;
- include Dose Administration



NACCHO Chairperson Matthew Cooke and The Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President George Tambassis at the signing of the national Joint Position Paper.

Aids for better management of medicines; and

- better communication for patients and health professionals of the CTG Co-payment measure.

NACCHO Chairperson Matthew Cooke said it was important that everything is done to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have

access to appropriate medicines.

"Chronic diseases are one of the major reasons we still have a gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and

other Australians," he said.

"Improved access to medicines is critically important if we are to see generational change in the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President George Tambassis said it was pleasing that more than 258,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients were accessing the more affordable PBS medicines through the measure, but more could be done to ensure greater take up.

"A range of practical enhancements would assist those in remote areas to get better access to the medicines under the scheme and ensure they have access to it wherever they fill their prescriptions," he said.

"We want this vital scheme to be sufficiently flexible to improve the health of people wherever they live and wherever they travel.

"These relatively simple improvements will help in the management of chronic disease within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

The joint position paper can be found at www.naccho.org.au or www.guild.org.au

77 ACCHOs register for QUMAX

NACCHO has announced the successful Registration of 77 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) to participate in the QUMAX Programme in 2015-2016. This enables a reach of 219,486 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients of ACCHOs.

Through QUMAX, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and NACCHO continue to work collaboratively to provide support to ACCHOs to develop work plans and Dose Administration Aid (DAA) Agreements with Community Pharmacies (and pharmacies) across Australia under year one of the sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA).

Annual work plans will continue to utilise the seven support categories available under the 5CPA within the QUMAX Programme Specific Guidelines. The support categories enable development of local Quality Use of Medicine (QUM) objectives and negotiation with preferred Community Pharmacy (or pharmacies) to establish bulk local QUMAX DAA Agreements and any other support as requested.

The categories include:

- Dose Administration Aid (DAA) arrangement. Aim – Reduce the financial barriers to access a comprehensive DAA service provided by Community Pharmacy to improve medication adherence and medication management for ACCHO clients.
- QUM Pharmacy Support*. Aim – To facilitate additional Community Pharmacy involvement and support in

areas such as QUM planning, policies, protocol development, medicine quality assurance and appropriate Safety Net utilisation.

- Home Medicines Review (HMR) models of support. Aim – Reduce the cultural and logistical barriers to access HMRs by ACCHO clients.

- QUM Devices. Aim – Reduce the financial barriers of access to QUM devices to improve overall delivery of medicines and management of chronic diseases i.e. asthma and diabetes.

- QUM Education. Aim – Reduce financial barriers of access to QUM education and health promotion for ACCHO employees and their clients. This category may also help ACCHOs to access current medicine resources, promoting suitable, safe and effective medication management for ACCHO clients.

- Cultural Awareness. Aim – Improve access and delivery of cultural awareness resources and training for Community Pharmacy to promote a culturally aware pharmacy environment.

Transport. – Aim: Reduce barriers of access to medicines and Community Pharmacy services by providing transport support.

**In exceptional circumstances where a community pharmacy (or pharmacies) confirms they are unable to provide this support, the ACCHO may recommend alternative arrangements via the work plan to the Guild and NACCHO, who will jointly provide a recommendation to the Department for consideration.*



Danila Dilba Health Service, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation in Darwin, is one of many in the Qumax Program.



Leadership, ACCHOs and families are central to recovery from Ice

APUNIPIMA Cape York Health Council, the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) for Cape York, launched the initial phase of its Ice campaign earlier this year.

Spearheaded by Public Health Medical Advisor Dr Mark Wenitong, the campaign saw Apunipima partner with the North Queensland Cowboys co-captain Johnathan Thurston, Intrust Super Cup rugby league player Davin Crampton (Tweed Heads Seagulls), former Cairns Taipans Kerry Williams and hip-hop group The Last Kinection to deliver strong anti-ice messages to the wider community.

Thurston, who took the Cowboys to their first ever NRL Grand Final victory on October 4, said everyone needed to do their bit to tackle ice.

"Every bit we do as individuals in our communities to give ice the boot is a step closer to driving the message home that ice is lethal," the footballer said.

"I encourage people to be active in their communities, to take a stance against ice, and support your mob. At the end of the day, raising awareness about ice and what it can do to our mob, friends



ACCHO case Studies were presented by Raylene Gordon CEO Awabakal chief executive Raylene Gordon, Apunipima's Dr Mark Wenitong and Winnunga CEO Julie Tongs.

and families is necessary to help kick ice out of our communities."

Dr Wenitong, who attended NACCHO's Ice Round Table at Parliament House in Canberra on October 15, said the key themes that emerged from the meeting were the role of families and community controlled health services in the fight against ice.

"One thing that stood out for me was how much ACCHOs are

already doing in this space," he said.

"We are doing it well and I'd like to see more funding directed at ACCHOs to support them in the work they are doing in this area.

"Ice is a health issue and I believe that ACCHOs are well placed to prevent uptake and to support individuals and families struggling with the impact of ice use and addiction.

"One thing that is absolutely clear is that families are central to management and recovery of users. Basically, people only come to a clinic when they hit the wall. Before that crisis point, it's families that are managing the issue.

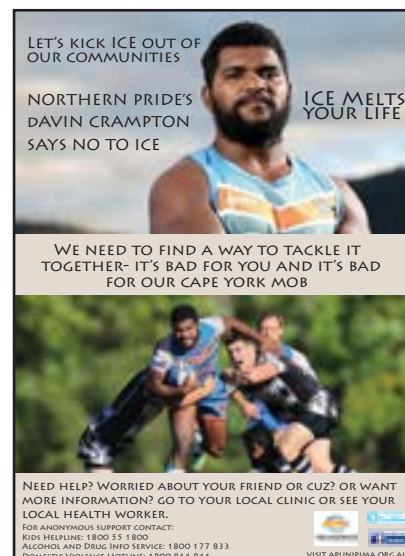
"So I think it's our role, as ACCHOs, to provide a road map, a support structure for families dealing with ice use.

"Families also have a critical

role to play in recovery. Again and again, people who have emerged from ice use or addiction say it was their family who pulled them through.

"We need to support families because it's families that are doing most of the work in this area."

Apunipima has a range of ice information and resources on its website. Head to apunipima.org.au/services to find out more.



A poster from the Apunipima campaign targeting ice.

The Federal Government's National Ice Taskforce

THE Australian Government is currently focusing on Ice due to its prevalence in contemporary Australian and international societies. The recently established National Ice Taskforce has been charged with working with states and territories under strict terms of reference with a strong focus on the following:

- Take a comprehensive stocktake of existing efforts to address ice at all levels of government;

- receive submissions from community consultations and expert groups to ensure all Australians affected by ice have the opportunity to be heard;

- Identify potential gaps in knowledge specifically around treatment models, associated criminal activity and the impact of ice on vulnerable groups, including people living in regional Australia and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;

- Identify specific initiatives that are currently providing good outcomes for the community;

- Examine ways to ensure existing efforts to tackle ice are appropriately targeted, effective and efficient;

- Provide advice on appropriate primary prevention activities, informed by evidence and best practice;

- Consider options to improve levels of coordination and collaboration of existing efforts at the local, regional and state and territory; and

- Develop a package or recommendations to be actioned as part of developing a broader National

Strategy for Action on Ice.

A final report will be provided to the Prime Minister with a final strategy to be considered by COAG before the end of 2015

AIHW Report Trends in methylamphetamine availability, use and treatment 2003-04 to 2013-14 released October 2015 summary

Illicit drug use is associated with many risks of harm to the user and to their family and friends. The harms associated with methylamphetamine, especially its crystal (ice) form, are particularly concerning, and can result in significantly harmful long-term psychological and physical effects. Changes in the use of methylamphetamine have been one area of increasing concern among health professionals and the Australian community.

Terminology for methylamphetamine – commonly referred to as methamphetamine or 'meth' – varies across data sources. Not all data sources collect data on methylamphetamine specifically; some use the broader classes of drugs, amphetamines, amphetamine-type stimulants, or 'meth/amphetamines', in which methylamphetamine belongs.

Production and supply of amphetamine-type stimulants has been increasing.

In recent years, arrest, seizure and detection data indicate that production and supply of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) is rapidly increasing, in Australia and

internationally. Over the four years since 2009-10, detections (the identification of illicit drugs at the Australian border) increased by 86% between 2011-12 and 2012-13, and a further 18% in 2013-14, and the total weight of these detections in 2013-14 was 27 times as high as it was in 2009-10. The total number of arrests for ATS increased, accounting for 15% of all arrests in 2009-10 and 23% in 2013-14.

Methylamphetamine is consistently reported as very accessible.

As well as consistent prices, methylamphetamine purity has remained consistently high since 2008, particularly for crystal, and all forms of methylamphetamine have been consistently reported as 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain since 2007.

The form of methylamphetamine used has changed from powder to crystal in recent years.

While the proportion of the population who used meth/amphetamines in the past 12 months declined between 2004 and 2013 (from 3.2% to 2.1%), more recently there has been substantial change in the form of methylamphetamine used – from powder to crystal (ice). More of those who used methylamphetamine in 2013 reported crystal as the main form used (50% of recent users) compared with powder (29% or recent users).

Between 2010 and 2013, there has been an increase in new users of 'meth/amphetamine', especially crystal.

In 2013, a larger proportion of recent users had first used 'meth/amphetamines' –

34% compared with 27% in both 2007 and 2010. This cohort of new users is opting mainly for crystal rather than the powder form of 'meth/amphetamines'.

Since 2004, there has been a shift in the pattern of recent 'meth/amphetamine' use by socioeconomic status, remoteness area and Indigenous status.

In 2013, recent users of 'meth/amphetamine' were more commonly aged 20-29 and most likely to be male. In 2004, people living in the two most advantaged socioeconomic status (SES) quintiles were the more likely to be recent users. However, by 2010 they were the least likely to be users. Since 2007, people living in remote and very remote areas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were more likely to be recent users.

Since 2009-10, the number of episodes for clients injecting and smoking amphetamines has increased.

Over the five years to 2013-14, the number of episodes for clients injecting and smoking (clients who reported 'smoking or inhaling') amphetamines increased, while use via other methods remained relatively stable. Clients who smoke amphetamines are most likely to have never injected drugs, indicating that these clients are a different type of user.

While characteristically, injectors and smokers appear to be relatively similar, there are some noticeable differences – more young people smoke than inject and slightly more females and Indigenous Australians inject than smoke.



National Ice Forum explored solutions to the ice epidemic

NACCHO brought together representatives from Aboriginal health services, government and research institutions in Parliament House last month to explore solutions to the growing issue of ice usage among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Matthew Cooke, Chair of NACCHO said the NACCHO National Ice Forum was held in response to concerns from Aboriginal health services about the impact of ice on individuals, families and the broader community.

"Methamphetamine, more commonly known as ice, is an awful drug which is insidiously working its way into many Aboriginal communities," he said.

"It is highly addictive and long-term use can induce anxiety, depression, paranoia, delusions and violence.

"Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are vulnerable to using drugs or alcohol, using them to mask deeper mental health issues bought on by trauma, dispossession, racism and other societal issues.

"They often self-medicate with alcohol and other drugs, but drugs like ice have the opposite effect – exacerbating pre-existing conditions and creating the need for urgent treatment.

"It's critical we do everything we can to get a better sense of how widespread ice usage is in our communities and find the most effective



The NACCHO Ice Roundtable expert panel was kept busy yarning about the six ice taskforce priorities.

methods for treatment and prevention."

Mr Cooke said he hoped the Forum would result in some clear strategies to assist Aboriginal health services manage the growing problem of ice addiction.

"Impact of ice"

"Our forum took a close look at the impact of ice within Aboriginal communities and considering what needs

to be put in place to support our health services who are increasingly have to deal with its effects," he said.

"Treatment and prevention are critical, but we also have to consider how to protect our own staff and other patients when a person experiencing an ice-induced violent psychosis presents to one of our services."

Mr Cooke said the key issues and

outcomes arising from the forum would be presented to the Federal Government for consideration by the National Ice Taskforce.

Speakers at the forum included Assistant Minister for Rural Health Fiona Nash, Assoc Professor James Ward, of the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence; Dr Sarah MacLean, of La Trobe University, plus many ACCHO members.



Federal Minister for Rural Health Senator Fiona Nash showed her support by opening the NACCHO National Ice Roundtable.



One of the highlights of the NACCHO National Ice Roundtable held in Canberra was personal perspectives presented by Trent Adams (left) and Lawrence Riley.



New web resource aims to help reduce harmful tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

EDITH Cowan University's Australian Indigenous Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre has launched a tobacco section (www.aodknowledgecentre.net.au/aodkc/aodkc-tobacco) which will support efforts to reduce harmful tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This important addition to the Knowledge Centre provides the evidence base to reduce harms

from tobacco use and complements the comprehensive resources made available through the Knowledge Centre on alcohol and other drugs.

HealthInfoNet Director Professor Neil Drew says: "The new section on tobacco use provides up-to-date, relevant information for people working, studying or interested in addressing the harms of tobacco

use and its link with chronic diseases."

The new section provides information on current and completed programs and projects; organisations that are addressing issues related to tobacco use; publications which focus on key areas of smoking; and health promotion and health practice resources to assist health workers and community members.

A collection of relevant national and state policies on tobacco use can also be found. A workforce section is included to provide information about training, funding, conferences and career opportunities.

Tobacco is one of the leading contributors to the burden of disease among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It increases the risk of chronic diseases including cardiovascular

disease, many forms of cancer and lung diseases.

Smoking among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has been gradually declining since 2002, but the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who smoke is still high (44%) compared to non-Indigenous people (17%).

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people would like to quit or reduce their smoking.

Apunipima's Dr Mark Wenitong appointed to Commonwealth advisory committee

APUNIPIMA'S Public Health Medical Advisor Dr Mark Wenitong has been appointed to the Commonwealth Government's GP Training Advisory Committee.

As the only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander GP on the committee, Dr Wenitong will be able to give a valuable insight into the skills GPs need to deliver high quality medical services in remote aboriginal communities.

The Committee will oversee the governance of the Australian General Practice Training program and advise the Government on GP training policy and delivery.

"The Australian General Practice Training program is a postgraduate vocational education and training program designed to prepare GP registrars for fellowship," Federal Health Minister Sussan Ley said.

There are currently more than 4700 GP registrars on the Australian General Practice Training program nationally.

Dr Wenitong, who is also Adjunct Associate Professor at James Cook University's School of Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences, says his new role is "to help ensure we have effective training policy and practice to deliver a well-trained and well supported, culturally competent GP primary health care workforce in Australia".

"GPs are centrally relevant in health care, often being the first port of call when someone has a health and wellbeing need, physical illness or mental health issue," he said.

"The need for this 'generalist' to diagnose, to centrally coordinate, treat and manage, and advise and advocate best patient care across the health system is critical.



Dr Mark Wenitong, who will serve on the Commonwealth Government's GP Training Advisory Committee.

"It is vital they are well trained to provide care in a variety of situations, including culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, as this skill will enable them to help not only

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but all of their patients."

Dr Wenitong's term as Independent Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander GP will run for three years.

New and innovative ways to work with Indigenous people on gambling issues

GAMBLING impacts on Indigenous families and communities in diverse and complex ways. To date there has been a lack of coordinated research, service delivery and policy focus in this area.

This is partly a result of the variety of Indigenous peoples' gambling activities, as well as the diversity of places in which Indigenous people live.

An exciting collaboration between researchers and gambling help services is shining new light on these issues and new ways of working with communities to address gambling issues. Dr Marisa Fogarty (Australian National University), Dr Helen Breen (Southern Cross University), Nicola Coalter (Amity Community Services, NT) and Ashley Gordon (NSW Aboriginal safe gambling service) are working together to look at how a health promotion framework can be used to work with communities to address gambling issues.

Research suggests that Indigenous people and families experience gambling problems at significantly higher rates than the non-Indigenous population. As a result of these findings, it is becoming increasingly important that we start to have conversations in communities about gambling.

However, many people don't feel comfortable talking about gambling issues and many struggle to find ways to address gambling problems because gambling can be a fun and entertaining activity for many people.

The partnership between leading gambling researchers and Australia's best examples of innovative gambling service delivery in the NT and NSW, are proposing a health promotion framework as a way forward.

A health promotion approach is about engaging, supporting and

empowering communities in addressing gambling issues. There are five key principles to a health promotion approach that contribute to improved outcomes, these are the development of healthy (and relevant) public policy; developing skills (education and awareness); creating supportive environments (cultural safety); reorient health services (relevant and extensive service delivery); and strengthen community action.

What a health promotion approach offers is a holistic framework that incorporates

Indigenous understandings of health and wellbeing, as well as Indigenous understandings of gambling and problems associated with gambling. This approach works to develop community resources and strengthen community capacity and action. What is also a critical part of addressing gambling issues is engaging existing health and community services and organisations to work collaboratively to

empower individuals, families and communities in addressing gambling problems.

The collaborators driving this work recently presented these ideas for an online seminar for the Australian Gambling Research Centre, at the Australian Institute of Family Studies, titled 'Addressing gambling in Indigenous communities: Embracing community, diversity and wellbeing'. The seminar was a great success, reaching a broad audience of social and community services, as well as state and federal government departments. This work will also be presented at the National Association for Gambling Studies conference in Adelaide this month. See <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/events/addressing-gambling-indigenous-communities-embracing-community-diversity-and-wellbeing>



Aboriginal gambling plays with personal and community values. Artwork by Gamilaroi man Sid Williams, published in a booklet about Aboriginal gambling issues.



Vinka at home in Derby

VINKA Barunga was one of those kids who always wanted to put on Band-Aids and take temperatures. She doesn't remember a time when she didn't want to be a doctor.

For the past four years, Vinka has been studying medicine at the University of Western Australia in Perth. This year, she's back on country in Derby (Kimberley) for a 12-month placement with the Rural Clinical School. Living with two other medical students, she'll divide her time between the local hospital and the Derby Aboriginal Health Service.

For Vinka – a proud Worora woman – her patients are more than names on a chart. In many cases, they're family and friends. The young doctor-in-training is lucky to walk through the waiting room without being held up by at least one relative eager for a chat.

Derby has never had a full-time Aboriginal doctor, and many of the locals are

excited to see a home-town girl on her way to graduating from medicine.

"I hope it makes them think 'oh she's done it, I can tell my grandchildren that I went to hospital and saw an Aboriginal doctor'," Vinka says.

Derby's health services cater primarily for Indigenous patients. Diabetes, kidney disease and heart disease are among the most common health issues. Children are often treated for ear or skin infections. These conditions are largely caused, or complicated by, substance abuse, poverty and overcrowding.

For visiting doctors, the reality can be confronting. For Vinka, it's all too familiar.

"We learn a lot about Aboriginal health issues and we learn about the really high alcohol and drug use and we learn about the domestic violence," she says.

"We learn about the chronic ear infections in



Vinka Barunga: "If I could inspire one person to become a doctor, or to finish high school, to go onto higher education – regardless of whether it's medicine or not – then that's amazing."

children and hearing problems in later life and mental health issues as a result of forced removal of

children and forced removal from country.

"I guess it's something that everyone can learn in

theory, but to go and see it is a completely different story."

Vinka has fond memories of playing with her cousins at Mowanjumb.

She's seen a lot in her 26 years. In 2012, her community of Mowanjumb reached crisis point after a spate of youth suicides.

"You grow up in a community where you see domestic violence and you see people drinking and you think that that's the way of life," she said.

"There have been moments when I've felt that as well."

The past few years haven't been easy for Vinka. During her time at university, she's lost both parents to illness. But she hasn't lost sight of her goal, and she finds daily inspiration in her patients.

"You learn a lot from people in medicine... talking to them about what they've done and the struggles they've had," she says.

"I guess I think that everyone's life is hard."

In medicine, Vinka has found something to aim for – and now she hopes to inspire other young people in her community to set goals of their own. She believes it's crucial to empower the next generation to create a healthy community.

A community where projects are developed by the people, for the people. A community that celebrates culture, cares for country and builds opportunities.

It's a vision shared by many at Mowanjumb, and Vinka is determined to turn it into a reality.

"If I could inspire one person to become a doctor, or to finish high school, to go onto higher education – regardless of whether it's medicine or not – then that's amazing," she says.

It's this passion for her culture and community that keeps the young doctor-in-training so driven.

– this is an edited version of a story by Ella Archibald-Binge

Dentistry Gari's dream job

GARI Watson is a Goreng Goreng, Gangulu and Biri Gubba man who grew up in Brisbane with his family, including three older siblings.

He was the third Indigenous dentist to graduate from James Cook University (JCU), in 2014.

"I knew from the age of 12 when I got braces that I wanted to be a dentist," said Gari.

"In all the years of visiting the Aboriginal Medical Service and going to the dentist I'd never met an Aboriginal dentist... I was inspired and I knew that's what I wanted to do with my life."

"At school I tried really hard. I wasn't the top of my class, but I was really interested in biology and health so I got serious and finally finished Year 12."

Initially, Gari didn't get the marks to get into dentistry so he did a year of Bachelor of Health Science at Griffith University and also did a Certificate III in Dental Assisting. He then applied to study Dentistry at James Cook University (JCU) in Cairns.

"The application process to get into Dentistry was pretty intense and included interviews where I was able to demonstrate my commitment to, and passion for, being a dentist," he said.

"Having done the Cert III in Dental Assisting also showed my commitment, and gave me valuable experiences that helped me realise I was on the right track."

Eventually Gari was offered a position in the Indigenous Health Career Access Program at JCU, which meant he could study the first year of dentistry over two years and receive mentoring and guidance during this time to facilitate his success.

During the first few years of his



Dentist Gari Watson: "To anyone thinking about studying dentistry, I would say that if you really want it then put your mind to it, be persistent – and regardless of any barriers, you'll get there one day."

degree, Gari also had access to tutoring support through the ITAS program.

"One of the things that really helped me at uni was establishing an Indigenous student network at the Cairns campus of JCU," he

said. "It allowed us the opportunity to go to uni and feel supported so we didn't feel marginalised."

"There was also an amazing Indigenous Student Support Officer who nurtured and supported me and went in to bat

for me when I needed it.

"Being at uni wasn't easy, especially because I was living so far from home for the first time in my life."

"I got really homesick at first and it was a struggle, but

gradually I got to know more people through the Indigenous student network and we formed our own family away from home, creating a sense of belonging."

"Even though I was the only Indigenous person studying dentistry in my year level, it really didn't matter as there was a cohort of Indigenous students studying dentistry in the years below me."

"Throughout my degree I regularly visited the local Aboriginal Medical Service in Cairns, where I was welcomed and given opportunities to observe some of the things I was learning."

"They were able to answer many of my questions and help me stay motivated when things got tough."

"What I love most about being a dentist is helping people to smile again."

"It is so rewarding to watch someone's confidence grow more every day and know that I played a part in that."

"Dentistry is so much more than just doing fillings."

"To anyone thinking about studying dentistry, I would say that if you really want it then put your mind to it, be persistent – and regardless of any barriers, you'll get there one day."

"It's hard work and can be challenging at times, but at the end of the day it's worth it... For yourself, your family and your community."

Gari is currently working at the Institute for Urban Indigenous health in his hometown of Brisbane.

– See more at: <http://iaha.com.au/allied-health-careers/journeys-into-allied-health/gari-watson-dentistry/#sthash.0tucsgyZ.dpuf>



He's working to inspire youth through motivational speaking workshops

JOE Williams is a proud Wiradjuri Aboriginal man born in Cowra and raised in Wagga, NSW. He played in the NRL for South Sydney Rabbitohs, Penrith Panthers and Canterbury Bulldogs before switching to professional boxing in 2009.

Joe is a two-times WBF World Junior Welterweight champion and recently won the WBC Asia Continental Title. Currently working fulltime as the Aboriginal education worker at Mater Dei Catholic College, Joe still has time to run his own boxing gym – the JWB Gym.

Apart from being involved with professional sport for over 15 years, Joe also now works to inspire youth through motivational speaking workshops.

He has spent time working with disengaged youth in high schools and primary schools, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres and jails, and has mentored youths and adults.

Privately, Joe has had his own battles, struggles and setbacks, yet continues to work toward a brighter future.

The Enemy Within Project shows a raw and honest side of Joe Williams, the boxer, former NRL Player, father and fiancé. He delves into the private pain, and dealings with depression that drove him to the very brink.

He talks about adversity, dealing with struggle, resilience, improving your attitude by 1%, positive energy and how small steps lead to something greater.

Joe lists becoming a father to four

beautiful children as his greatest accomplishment.

He draws on personal experiences, and uses his raw approach to engage with his audience through voice, motivation and music.

Plenty of people have praise for Joe and the workshops. Here are two.

"Thank you Joe for having the courage to speak so openly about your journey and of your recovery. Your heartfelt story of optimism and resilience was moving and inspirational. The Rugby League community at St Mary's were engaged for the entire presentation! Thank you again for your generous gift of words, spirit and belief." – Adam Przybyla, Saint Mary's Rugby League Club Manager.

"Joe Williams attended The Bidgee School and delivered his 'Enemy Within' Workshop to our students ranging in age from 10 through to 17. His positive and inspiring message of hope in the face of adversity fully engaged all of our students who listened intently and asked questions meaningful to their own lives and situations. The conversation around destigmatising mental health issues continues to this day. I would strongly recommend Joe as an inspiring speaker offering hope to all young people, particularly those with mental health issue." – Marianne Mitchell, Principal, The Bidgee School.

For more information, or to book a workshop, email info@joewilliams.com.au



Joe Williams in the gym.

Time for a new deal on mental health

QUeensland's Aboriginal and Islander community-controlled health organisations have called for greater coordination in the funding and delivery of mental health services.

At the start of the recent Mental Health Week, the sector's peak body, QAIHC, said the particular and unique circumstances faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples required a unique approach to improving mental illness.

QAIHC CEO Matt Cooke (also Chair of NACCHO) said that there were immediate steps that governments should take to improve the effectiveness of mental health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"The National Mental Health Commission Review into mental health, released in April, called for Indigenous mental health to be made a national priority with a new 'Closing the Gap' mental health target, and yet nearly four months later there doesn't appear to be any progress," he said.

"We also urgently need for our mental health and alcohol and other drugs services to be under the auspices of the Federal Department of Health rather than being separated into the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet where it currently is.

"This illogical separation makes coordination of health services more difficult; it is an entirely avoidable obstacle to success and the new Turnbull Government must reverse it.

"The continuing high rates of self-harm, suicide, incarceration and substance misuse among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are indicators that much more needs to be done and we just don't have the luxury of time; changes are needed right now."

Mr Cooke also called for greater investment into workforce training to create a new cohort of Aboriginal and Islander mental health workers and counsellors.

"Much more work is needed to open pathways to university degrees in psychology and



Matt Cooke: "The continuing high rates of self-harm, suicide, incarceration and substance misuse among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are indicators that much more needs to be done and we just don't have the luxury of time; changes are needed right now."

psychiatry for Aboriginal and Islander people," he said.

"There are currently only about

80 Indigenous psychologists in the country and we need about 600 if we want to achieve parity with the population. We need trained mental health workers in every one of Queensland's 24 community-controlled health services to begin tackling the heartache of suicide and self-harm in particular."

Mr Cooke said there are many examples of extremely successful community-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health initiatives in drug rehabilitation, suicide prevention and other mental health-related challenges.

"Initiatives such as the QAIHC 'Lighting the Dark' Suicide Prevention Program which was delivered across 10 communities in Queensland have been well received by community as an effective means of addressing suicide," he said.

"QAIHC is partnering with St John's to roll out Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid across our community controlled health services; increasing individual awareness of the risk factors and providing them with skills in

working with individuals who are experiencing social, emotional wellbeing, mental illness or suicidal ideation. These initiatives will save lives.

Mr Cooke also referred to the National Empowerment Project currently under way in Kuranda and Cherbourg as another example of a holistic approach using culture and spirituality to empower local people and reduce the terrible burden of mental illness.

"What we truly need from governments is a better directing of funding and a sensible approach to removing obstacles that stand in the way of community-based solutions," he said. "We have the will, the intellect and the determination to address the mental health issues in our communities; what are missing are suitable resources and a trained expert Aboriginal workforce to implement innovative programs which empower our people.

"These are the responsibilities of governments and we remain hopeful they will take up the challenge to support us."



This doctor is a woman of influence

DOCTOR Robyn Shields AM has been named among *The Australian Financial Review* and Westpac's 2015 100 Women of Influence (www.100womenofinfluence.com.au).

The annual awards aim to increase the visibility of female leadership and highlight women's contribution across 10 categories. Dr Shields was one of 10 women named in the 'public policy' category for her clinical service to, and advocacy on behalf of, mentally ill and disadvantaged groups, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and forensic psychiatric patients.

The winner of the public policy category was Pat Anderson AO, Founding Chair of the Lowitja Institute.

Dr Shields worked for many years as a mental health nurse and is now undertaking specialist training as a psychiatrist.

When she graduates, she will join the ranks of only two other Indigenous psychiatrists in Australia and will be the second Indigenous woman (after Professor Helen Milroy) to join the profession. There are presently no Indigenous psychiatrists in NSW, where Dr Shields works.

Dr Shields has concentrated on raising the status of mental illness in the public consciousness, and developing new models of care for mentally ill people in the most disadvantaged groups, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and forensic patients.

She is acutely aware of the need for Aboriginal communities to design and control their own services, "because of distrust and mistrust from a long history

with government departments and particularly in mental health," she says.

"There's no easy fix, but it's essential it never gets put off the agenda."

While completing her full-time psychiatry registrar training, Dr Shields remains a public servant in roles where her advocacy ensures the issues faced by disadvantaged people can be better understood. She has a part-time leadership role as Deputy Commissioner at the NSW Mental Health Commission.

Dr Shields also holds current positions on numerous boards and agencies including the Sydney Children's Hospital Network and Mental Health Review Tribunal. She has been awarded a Centenary of Federation Medal and an Order of Australia in recognition of her work in developing mental health services for Aboriginal people.

Founding member

Dr Shields is a founding member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health – NATSILMH <http://natsilmh.org.au/>

NATSILMH is a core group of senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in the areas of social and emotional wellbeing, mental health and suicide prevention.

Prof Pat Dudgeon, Chair of NATSILMH, commented on Dr Shields' achievement. "We are very proud of Robyn and we are glad that she has been recognised as a woman of influence," Prof Dudgeon said.

"She is indeed one of our celebrated Indigenous women and a great role model for our people, particularly our young people."



Dr Robyn Shields: "There's no easy fix, but it's essential (Aboriginal mental health) never gets put off the agenda."

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health

This is from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health (NATSILMH)

DEPRESSION, suicide, hospitalisation for mental health issues, and psychological distress are reported at much higher rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when compared to other Australians. The reasons for the gap include historical trauma flowing from colonisation, and present-day stress from the unemployment, racism, poverty that too many experience.

To make matters worse, there is often a mismatch between the services we need and the services we get.

We tend to think of mental health differently, as part of a broader health concept called 'social and emotional wellbeing' that includes our physical health, the health of our families, communities,

cultures, languages, and our connections to country and the spiritual. Yet, if we rely on a GP or community mental health service, there is no guarantee that they will be sensitive to our social and emotional wellbeing needs, or support us to access cultural healing. And too few of our ACCHOs are funded to meet our needs in this area.

Now, more than ever, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership is needed from within the mental health system. That is, to ensure that the services we need are the ones we get, and to champion our cultural strengths and social and emotional wellbeing as sources of resilience, healing and mental health.

This is not to the exclusion of clinical approaches to mental health problems, particularly when they are severe, but to ensure we access the 'best of both worlds' as we need them.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health (NATSILMH) is a group of Indigenous mental health leaders associated with the four Australian mental health commissions, and includes NACCHO and the Healing Foundation.

It launched the Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Declaration (Declaration) in August 2015. This sets out principles for governments, mental health professionals and services to ensure our leaders are embedded and supported across the mental health system.

The Declaration is structured according to the five themes:

- Theme 1 requires that Indigenous concepts of social and emotional wellbeing and our cultural needs, including need for cultural healers, be recognised across the mental health system.
- Theme 2 is that we should have

access to both Indigenous and clinical ways of working with our mental health issues.

- Theme 3 talks about the need for the mental health evidence base to respect our social and emotional wellbeing and cultural understandings.

- Theme 4 requires that our people to be trained and employed to lead in the mental health system, in particular in those areas that many of us come into contact with.

- Theme 5 discusses other ways that the mental health system can value and support our leaders.

NATSILMH issued a 'Call to Action' with the Declaration for governments, mental health professionals and professional associations to adopt the Declaration and implement it by mid-2017.

To find out more about NATSILMH and the Declaration, including how it was developed, visit www.natsilmh.org.au



The NACCHO Ochre Day hoodies came in handy on what was one of the coldest September days in Adelaide.



Ochre Day snaps

● Left: Delegates on the Ochre Day march through the streets of Adelaide.

● Bottom left: Sporting legends Gavin Wanganeen (AFL) and Patrick Johnson (runner) were just two of the many inspirational speakers at Ochre Day.

● Top Right: Delegates paying respect at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial in Adelaide.

● Middle right: Tauto Sansbury, a Narungga Elder, and Troy Combo, an Aboriginal Health Worker from NSW, were part of the panel discussion on Aboriginal health.

● Bottom right: South Australian Police were rewarded for their support in coordinating the Ochre Day March through the heart of Adelaide.





Ochre Day Adelaide an important NACCHO male health initiative

THIS year's NACCHO Ochre Day (actually held over two days) was run in partnership with the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA) in Adelaide on September 3-4.

Started in 2013, Ochre Day is an important NACCHO Aboriginal male health initiative, as Aboriginal males have arguably the worst health outcomes of any population group in Australia. NACCHO has long recognised the importance of addressing Aboriginal male health as part of Close the Gap by 2030.

The purpose of the NACCHO Ochre Day is to not only share knowledge and explore ways to encourage males of all ages to access their local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service, but also allows us to:

- Build on the recommendations and outcomes from the male-only sessions at the NACCHO AGM/Members meeting as well as to provide an opportunity to draw national public awareness to Aboriginal male health, and social and emotional wellbeing; as well as;

- Providing an opportunity to 'showcase' exemplars of best practice in Aboriginal male health service delivery within Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

NACCHO welcomed over 160 delegates to Adelaide as part of this year's event. Features included the Ochre Day Hoodies presentation night, the Ochre Day male-only breakfast, held this year at Adelaide Oval and which was followed by a short walk to the South Australian Indigenous War Memorial to allow for all delegates to pay their respects.

There was a walk under police escort through the main street of Adelaide to Victoria Square – known as Tardanyangga to the Kaurna people – where speeches, presentations and lunch were held.

The male-only workshop focused on the drug ice. The discussions included how health workers have been trying to work with communities in attempting to come up with what is the best approach in dealing with this issue.

Delegates were also willing to share their personal stories in how ice is becoming an issue in their own families.

There was a change to the program this year, with the NACCHO Ochre Day Jaydon Adams Memorial Oration Dinner held on the last night at the Port Power Football Club in Alberton (Adelaide). Everyone was



Members of the nurses group, sponsored by CATSINAM, during this year's NACCHO Ochre Day in Adelaide, South Australia.

Welcomed to Country by Uncle Lewis O'Brien. There were two speakers, and delivering the Jaydon Adams Memorial Oration was Aaron Ken, who spoke about his life journey. Following the speech, Aaron was presented with a plaque by Mark and Lizzy Adams, the proud parents of Jaydon Adams.

The other speaker was AFL legend Gavin Wanganeen, who spoke for almost an hour about his spectacular football career as well as responding to questions from the audience.

Throughout both days, delegates had the opportunity to also listen to some impressive speakers, including Troy Combo (Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation, Casino Clinic); Mark and Lizzy Adams (Jaydon Adams Memorial Foundation); Matthew Cooke (NACCHO Chairperson); Frank Campbell and Patrick Johnson (AMSANT); and John Singer (AHCSA Chair); NACCHO Ochre Day Patron Uncle Philip Matsumoto (Broome, Western Australia); Uncle Tauto Sansbury (National NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award 2015); Damian Rigney (Aboriginal Health Worker/Nurse); Dwayne Bannon-Harrison (Ngaran Ngaran Culture Awareness); and Emrhan Sultan (Oxfam)

NACCHO Ochre Day will be held in Perth in early September next year. NACCHO is looking forward to working alongside AHCWA and Derbarl Yerrigan to deliver a successful event.



● Above: Members of the day one Inspirational Panel at NACCHO Ochre Day in Adelaide. Participants heard from a range of impressive speakers during this year's event.



● Left: Ochre Day participants assembled at the Adelaide Oval. NACCHO welcomed more than 160 delegates to Adelaide as part of this year's event.



Working together to support the wellbeing of Aboriginal children

A GROUP of Aboriginal cultural consultants, psychologists and media professionals has joined forces with KidsMatter, a Federal children's mental health and wellbeing initiative, to create a series of animations and guidance resources focused on supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal children.

The series of 12 powerful and emotional animations focus on resilience, the importance of adults taking care of themselves and cultural identity and can be used by Aboriginal communities as a way to share stories and start conversations about caring for kids.

Psychologist Lyn O'Grady, Manager of the KidsMatter team at the Australian Psychological Society, says people will use the animations in different ways.

"An Aboriginal health worker may use the animations to trigger conversations with community groups around raising and caring for children," she said.

"Or a non-Aboriginal early childhood service might use the animations as professional learning tools to increase their knowledge about the factors important to Aboriginal children's social and emotional wellbeing."

The cultural consultants drew on their own life and professional experiences to contribute deep understandings of social and emotional wellbeing from an Indigenous worldview and were very generous in sharing their insights and personal stories.

Aunty Di Kerr, a Wurundjeri Elder who was engaged as a cultural

consultant, said: "We don't often have a voice, and to me this is our voice. We're sharing our stories, and it's very heartfelt."

KidsMatter brought the stories to life with Alice Springs-based Aboriginal production company Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA), which engaged Indigenous scriptwriters, actors, animators and musicians to contribute to the project.

Executive Producer for CAAMA Productions Nicolas Lee said: "We appointed the most talented people available to bring the project to life. Writer Bec Cole quickly cut to the heart of the stories with sparing dialogue and the artful animations were beautifully underscored by talented young composer Crystal Butcher."

Carmen Naivalu was one of the Indigenous psychologists engaged by KidsMatter to provide feedback in the context of contemporary research in Indigenous social and emotional wellbeing.

"It's a kind of journey that the viewer is supposed to go on, and find some kind of personal meaning, in themselves, about what this animation is about," she said.

KidsMatter and the Aboriginal consultants and psychologists have also developed a series of guidance resources, including three videos and a webinar, to keep viewers safe and help people decide the best way to use the animations. Cultural Consultant Ronnie Briggs says: "It's like having Elders, helping you along."

The animations and guidance resources are available online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au/atsi-resources/aboriginal-animations



● Above: A still of one of the Aboriginal animations from the resource.



● Left: Cultural consultant Aunty Di Kerr: "We don't often have a voice, and to me this is our voice. We're sharing our stories, and it's very heartfelt."

Royal Far West Leadership Camp for Walgett students

IN August, Manly-based charity Royal Far West hosted its Indigenous Leadership Skills Camp, which included a strong health and wellbeing focus, for students from Walgett, north-west NSW.

As a result of an already strong partnership and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Royal Far West and the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service (WAMS), the 10 high school students were chosen to attend the week-long program which provided mentoring, education and health support.

The camp sessions covered healthy lifestyle and recreational activities including surfing lessons on Manly beach, healthy cooking classes, drug and alcohol education sessions and public speaking workshops.

The NRL Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, who delivered the camp in partnership with Royal Far West, also invited the students to a home game, and a number of players, including Josh Starling, were involved in supporting the camp activities.

Royal Far West CEO Lindsay Cane said the organisation was delighted to offer camps like this to support young Indigenous people.

"Royal Far West already has a wonderful relationship with the community of Walgett and we were excited to welcome these



Dylan Cran and Steve West with Manly Warringah NRL player and, right, Monique Sullivan and Payten Thorne enjoying Manly Beach.

students to Manly for this innovative program," she said.

"Supported by our strong partnership with WAMS, we look forward to continuing to support these young people back in their home community and to building further relationships to strengthen the health and wellbeing of children from the region."

"A huge thanks must also go to the Manly



Warringah Sea Eagles for their investment in this camp. Royal Far West is always looking to work with partners who share our vision for healthy country kids so that even more children and young people can benefit from our camps program and other health services."

PCYC Walgett manager Amanda Cheal, who along with two PCYC youth police

officers accompanied the group, said the trip provided opportunities they would not have had in Walgett, particularly through workshops and sporting activities.

"The Walgett community was right behind this initiative and we feel certain that this collaboration has the potential to have a powerful impact on the students," she said.

When the students returned to Walgett, they delivered a presentation on the camp at the official opening of the local PCYC attended by the Governor of NSW, His Excellency General David Hurley, and NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione.

Royal Far West and WAMS officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2014, which aims to strengthen the capacity and resilience of the local Walgett community through the delivery of health and wellbeing services.

Royal Far West will continue to work with WAMS and the community of Walgett to deliver community capacity building and health and wellbeing initiatives, supported by a Federal Government grant. Aboriginal Cultural Relations Coordinator April Jones has also recently joined the organisation to further strengthen its engagement with Aboriginal communities and organisations across NSW.



'Our Health Our Way' leads the way to good health

NSW Kids and Families has launched the 'Our Health Our Way' resources for Aboriginal young people.

The resources explain how easy it is to access appropriate healthcare for Aboriginal young people aged 12 to 24.

These young people can have significant health needs which affect their health now and in the future.

"Talking to a doctor about personal issues can be embarrassing for young people. Subjects such as sex, drugs

and pregnancy can be difficult to talk about but are very important to a young person's health," said Christine Corby, a Member of the NSW Kids and Families Board and Chairperson of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW.

NSW Kids and Families commissioned 33 Creative, an Aboriginal media, events and communications company, to produce a series of videos for Aboriginal young people. The seven 'Our Health Our Way' videos feature Aboriginal young people talking about their health, where to go and what's important to know about healthcare.

In the process of developing the videos, 33 Creative and NSW Kids and Families consulted with Aboriginal young people in metropolitan and rural/regional areas of NSW to identify the key concerns Aboriginal young people have about their health and healthcare.

"The consultations revealed young people often put off going to a doctor. At NSW Kids and Families we hope these resources will encourage young people to have regular check ups and

NSW Kids and Families website and on DVD. Additional supporting resources have also been produced, including posters, brochures and lesson plans for use in schools.

To download the online version of the videos and other resources, visit www.kidsfamilies.health.nsw.gov.au (under publications 'multimedia'). To order a hard copy of the videos and resources, contact the Youth Health and Wellbeing Team, NSW Kids and Families – hulya.bicici@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

NSW Kids and Families is the NSW Health agency that provides statewide leadership and guidance to improve the

health and wellbeing of children, young people and families in NSW. Aboriginal young people have been identified as a key priority group in Healthy, Safe and Well: A Strategic Health Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2014-24. NSW Kids and Families works in partnership with health agencies, including Aboriginal Medical Services, to implement this plan.

"The consultations revealed young people often put off going to a doctor. At NSW Kids and Families we hope these resources will encourage young people to have regular check ups and to stay connected to health services."

to stay connected to health services," Ms Corby said.

The videos address issues that are important for young people – their healthcare, their rights in healthcare, confidentiality, getting a Medicare card, finding bulk billing providers and pregnancy. They also highlight the important role played by Aboriginal Medical Services.

The videos are available on the



SNAICC trauma workshop is helping our children

ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander children who witness or live with prolonged exposure to violence, abuse, neglect or poverty are likely to experience stress levels that causes childhood or developmental trauma.

They can also experience trauma by being placed in out-of-home care; witnessing or experiencing high levels of stress or trauma; and by being exposed to trans-generational trauma and/or inter-generational trauma within their family and community.

Children who have been exposed to trauma can behave differently. Identifying the emotions and behaviours in a child that are related to their experiences of trauma is important in assisting workers to have a better understanding of why the child behaves as they do. This understanding will also guide the carer to seek the assistance needed to support the child on their journey of healing.

Trauma-specific care and practices for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aim to help workers understand the emotional and developmental impacts of trauma on a child. This understanding is key to a child's



Participants at the SNAICC trauma workshop held during September in Adelaide.

healing journey through building their resilience and hope, their social emotional well-being and their belief in the future.

In an effort to combat trauma more effectively, the SNAICC

Recognising and Responding to Trauma Workshop puts trauma under a lens to better understand its impacts, and build a deeper understanding of trauma-informed approaches to healing and

working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities.

Launched in late 2014, SNAICC has since delivered workshops in Lismore, Adelaide

and the Tiwi Islands in collaboration with the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA). Each workshop has been adjusted – depending on its urban, regional or remote setting – to draw from the existing strengths in each community.

Topics covered include cultural context of trauma work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families; intergenerational and trans-generational trauma; understanding trauma related behaviours; steps towards healing trauma; and responding and easing the impacts of trauma.

The workshop also looks at the importance of self-care and looking after yourself, recognising how vicarious trauma can have significant impact on workers and support people working closely with affected children and families.

With a focus on being relevant, easy to understand and culturally safe, the workshop also provides an opportunity for workers to come together to share their practices and stories, and learn from each other.

If your organisation would like to host a SNAICC workshop, contact: training@snaicc.org.au or phone (03) 9489 8099.



Persistence pays off to get the right diagnosis of Rheumatic Fever



I took the persistence of a loving grandmother to get the right diagnosis of rheumatic fever for her granddaughter.

June Smith took Rikki to four doctors before she was admitted to hospital and a week later diagnosed with rheumatic fever.

Rheumatic fever is caused by an autoimmune response to a bacterial infection with group A streptococcus (GAS infection). It affects the heart, joints, brain and skin.

People with rheumatic fever are often unwell for weeks with significant joint pain, fevers and other symptoms. The symptoms typically leave no lasting damage to the brain, joints or skin. However, the damage to the heart valves can remain once the rheumatic fever has resolved. This is known as rheumatic heart disease (RHD).

Timely and accurate diagnosis of rheumatic fever is vital in preventing this heart damage. However, disease identification can be a challenge for health professionals with little previous exposure to, or knowledge of, the illnesses as seems to be true of June's experience in regional NSW.

"My granddaughter woke up crying and crawled into bed with me, the next morning she was so sore, aching everywhere and in pain," she said.

"I took her straight to the doctor. I took her to four doctors in the end.

"The first two said there was nothing wrong, the third and fourth ones didn't know and sent her hospital.

"It took a long time to find out what was wrong; they kept taking blood and more blood.

"Rikki said, 'Nan, I'll have no blood left soon'. After a week in hospital they finally said she had rheumatic fever."

There is no definitive diagnostic test for rheumatic fever. The only way to diagnose ARF is to put together a whole constellation of signs and symptoms to see if a patient has the disease.

RHDAustralia has recently released a diagnosis calculator to help clinicians with this complex diagnosis. It is an update to the existing app version of the Australian Guideline for Prevention, Diagnosis and Management of acute rheumatic fever/rheumatic heart disease (2nd Edition).

Dr Anna Ralph, RHDAustralia's Clinical Director and an advisor on the development of the app, explained the importance of an accurate diagnosis.

"If the diagnosis is missed it's a lost opportunity to prevent disease progression... you miss the window for regular penicillin injections, follow-ups with specialists and other interventions that improve outcomes for children and young people with rheumatic fever," she said.

"The app also filters out cases that aren't rheumatic fever, so that a clinician is not over-diagnosing either. I think this is the way forward."

Rikki will now need long-acting penicillin injections to prevent a recurrence of rheumatic fever and potential heart damage. The injections need to be given every 28 days to make sure her heart is protected.

Her grandmother says of their family's experience: "I wish I had known more about the disease and wish the doctors had told me more. Other families need to be told what to look for and how to stop it so this doesn't happen to them."

Devastating effects

Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease are 100% preventable, yet they continue to have devastating effects on Indigenous communities in Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are up to eight times more likely than other Australians to be hospitalised for rheumatic fever and RHD, and nearly 20 times as likely to die from the disease.

While the unacceptable burden of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease in Aboriginal communities in Northern and Central Australia has been recognised as an issue for some time, the impact it is having on Indigenous, Pacific Islander, Maori and refugee populations in NSW is less well known.

From October 2, NSW Health has made both acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease notifiable under the *Public Health Act*, and established a voluntary register for people with rheumatic fever and/or RHD to improve the long-term clinical care of these patients. Notification of people aged less than 35 years and diagnosed with rheumatic fever and/or RHD is the first step in accessing the NSW RHD Register.

"Under the Better Cardiac Care for Aboriginal People initiative, NSW committed to making rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease notifiable so these conditions can be better monitored and managed. We look forward to working with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Aboriginal communities to reduce the burden of these preventable conditions," said Dr Vicky Sheppeard, of NSW Health.

For more information and to download the free app, go to RHDAustralia's website at rhdaustralia.org.au

RHDAustralia works with the RHD Control Programs across Australian jurisdictions to educate and raise awareness of rheumatic fever and RHD with health professionals and communities and to collect and analyse burden of disease data.

NSW clinicians can contact their local public health unit by calling 1300 066 055 to notify patients with suspected new and recurrent episodes of rheumatic fever and all patients with RHD aged under 35 years.

Make fast and accurate rheumatic fever diagnosis...

Download the free app for:

- The rheumatic fever diagnosis calculator, a support tool for clinicians
- Quick access to the Australian guideline for prevention, diagnosis and management of acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease (2nd edition)

Available for iOS and Android devices



rhdaustralia.org.au/apps



LOOKING AFTER YOUR BREASTS

Find breast cancer early and survive.



Breast Cancer: a handbook for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers

THIS handbook provides evidence-based information for Indigenous health workers to start the conversation with Indigenous women and promote increased breast cancer awareness, prevention activities, screening, early detection and quality of life after diagnosis.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer, and the second most common cause of cancer death in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Compared with non-Indigenous women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 14% less likely to survive five years after a breast cancer diagnosis.

The handbook is a valuable resource for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals.

● To download: <http://canceraustralia.gov.au/>

● To order: Breast Cancer: a handbook for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers –

freecall 1800 624 973.

● To promote: Breast cancer awareness messages at <http://canceraustralia.gov.au/affected-cancer/atsi/breast-cancer-awareness>

Cancer Australia encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to know their body, note the breast changes to look out for, report any unusual changes to their health professional, and for women over 50 to participate in screening every two years.

Detecting breast cancer early can give you a long time later

BREAST cancer is the most common cancer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. One in eight Australian women are diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. Although this statistic is alarming, thanks to better services and greater knowledge and awareness, fewer women are losing their lives to breast cancer.

BreastScreen Australia is trying to increase the focus on screening and the vital role it plays in the early detection of breast cancer. The organisation is trying to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who are screened, so more cancers are detected and more women survive.

Aunty Marg is helping the national BreastScreen Australia campaign by sharing her story of survival. She was first diagnosed when she was 58 years old, and then again when she was 65. Both times her cancer was detected early through breast cancer screening meaning it was easier to treat.

"The best way of detecting it is by attending those breast screenings," she said. "I'm lucky enough to still have both of my breasts."

The risk of breast cancer increases with age, in fact over 75% of breast cancer occurs in women over 50. That is why BreastScreen Australia invites women aged 50-74 to have a free screening mammogram every two years.

Done regularly, breast cancer screening is the best way to find breast cancer early.

Aunty Marg agrees that breast cancer is something that we need to talk about

more in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

She has found that since she started talking publicly about her breast cancer, more and more Aboriginal women have shared their own stories and are supporting each other.

"It is essential to send out an important message to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about the importance of detecting it early," she said.

"Keep your mammograms up every two years. Ring the breast screening people up and book your appointment. Make sure you go."

Easiest way

The easiest way to get a test is to make an appointment with your nearest BreastScreen Australia clinic, or visit one of the mobile clinics when it comes to your community.

You can take a friend or family member to help you feel more comfortable. A female worker will help you. She'll make sure you feel relaxed and safe and it's done in private.

If you prefer, your doctor or health worker can help you to make an appointment or let you know when a mobile clinic is coming to your community.

You can watch Aunty Marg's story and find out more at australia.gov.au/breastscreen. Call 13 20 50 for more information or to book a mammogram at your nearest BreastScreen Australia service.

BreastScreen Australia is a joint Australian, state and territory government initiative.



Breast-screening advocates Aunty Margaret Lawton and Trish Springsteen.

When did you have your last test?

THE risk of breast cancer increases as we get older. That's why the free BreastScreen Australia program has now expanded the invitation to include women aged 70 to 74 to get a free Breast Cancer test.

This will deliver 220,000 additional breast screening services to Australian women over four years.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are encouraged to have a free BreastScreen test every two years. This way, they can make sure any problems are found, even before they can be felt. It's something all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women should do to stay healthy and strong – for themselves, for their family, and for their community.

It's important to remember that having a BreastScreen test is:

● Private – a female worker will help you, and you will be treated with respect at all times.

● Supportive – you can take a friend or family member if it makes you feel more comfortable.

● Quick – your appointment will usually last 30 minutes, but the test itself only takes a few minutes.

● Free – all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women aged 50 to 74 can get a free BreastScreen test.

"A breast check is one of the most important things a woman can do for her health. It provides peace of mind for your health and wellbeing and can potentially save your life." – Apunipima Cape York Health Council Midwife Nie Sheehan

For more information, visit www.australia.gov.au/breastscreen or call 13 20 50.



PEPA helps in learning about palliative approach to care

DO you care for people who have a chronic or advanced illness and are unlikely to get better?

The Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA) offers opportunities for Indigenous health-care providers to develop or enhance knowledge and skills in the palliative approach to care.

By participating in PEPA learning opportunities, you could attend a palliative approach to care workshop or shadow health professionals in a specialist palliative care unit (host site). This may include time in the wards, handovers, team meetings, family meetings, home visits and training or in-services.

The principles of Cultural Respect are enabled in the delivery of PEPA, supporting a safe learning environment for participants.

PEPA is a funded program which gives employers the opportunity to be reimbursed towards backfill. If there is a requirement for travel to a placement at a host site,

then some costs may also be reimbursed. Limits apply.

Barry Fewquandie was an Indigenous Liaison Officer at Mount Isa Hospital in north-west Queensland. He did a PEPA placement at The Townsville Hospital in November 2013 where he gained knowledge and practical experience which increased his capacity to work with Indigenous patients.

After his placement, he sent the following reflection: ***"Thank you for the opportunity to undertake the PEPA course. After having completed the program I see the PEPA placement as an essential element of working in this critical field of health provision. I highly recommend it all newcomers to oncology and palliative care as it has been a great help to better understand end-of-life care."***

You can read more from Barry on the PEPA Queensland website: https://www.health.qld.gov.au/cpcrc/pepa_reflections.asp and he also features in the PEPA promotions video at:



Barry Fewquandie

<http://www.pepaeducation.com/>
Barry now works at Queensland Aged and Disability Advocacy Inc as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advocate in Cairns. Barry recently talked again at length about his placement. Here are some highlights from what he had to say:

- Barry spent time in the palliative care ward with the doctors, nurses and the Indigenous Liaison Officer whilst they were looking after patients and their families;

- He was able to have some one-on-one time with a palliative care specialist doctor;

- He was able to meet and develop a network with Indigenous Liaison Officers throughout the hospital;

- He was taken on tour of the hospital and saw how some of the equipment worked like MRI machines ;

- He learned about Advance Health Directives, Advance Care Planning and Enduring Powers of Attorney.

Barry spoke about how he was able to use what he learned back in Mt Isa when he was talking to patients, families and the community.

He uses his knowledge to provide better care patients and their families.

Barry appreciates that he was able to undertake a PEPA placement and always

promotes it to other Indigenous Liaison Officers and Health Workers.

If you are interested in learning about palliative care, call the PEPA Manager or PEPA Indigenous Project Officer in your state to see how the program can support you with funding towards backfill and travel.

PEPA placements are available for Indigenous Liaison Officers, Indigenous Health Workers, doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

More information about the program can be found at www.pepaeducation.com

Check for contact details in your state or territory.

The PEPA Queensland Manager is Aurora Hodges and the PEPA Indigenous Project Officer is Linda Medlin. Aurora can be contacted on (07) 3646 6216 and Linda can be contacted from Monday to Wednesday on (07) 3646 5251 for all inquiries from Queensland.



What is PEPA? PEPA offers a variety of opportunities for palliative care education and training for health care professionals. Every State and Territory has PEPA experiential learning opportunities. There are no fees for workshops or placement attendance.

PEPA acknowledges that palliative care is sensitive business. Partnering with key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations to ensure culturally respectful education programs and resources for Indigenous health workers. Providing positive experiences.

Activities for health, aged and community care professionals working in primary care or non-specialist palliative care settings to improve confidence and develop skills in working with people with palliative care needs.

If you would like to build your knowledge about the palliative approach to care PEPA offers: interactive workshops.

1. Palliative approach to care workshops for single disciplines or mixed discipline audiences
2. For aged care, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care providers;
3. Culture Centred Care Workshops From Australian Indigenous perspectives or From multi-cultural perspectives

After completing a workshop and wanting to learn more OR if you are comfortable working with clients with end of life care needs:

PEPA provides Australia's only free **Mentored Observational Placements** in palliative care services. Placements range from 2-5 days duration in a metropolitan or larger service (inpatient, community and/or hospital based consultancy); are observational (supernumery to staffing), professionally mentored (if available, a cultural mentor will also be offered), Placement participants will complete a pre-placement Learning Plan to ensure that your experience is what you want or need. Integration of learning into the participant's practice; Post-placement support; and Linkages and knowledge sharing with specialist palliative care providers. **Reverse PEPA placements** are available for Indigenous, regional and remote and residential aged care settings whereby a specialist palliative care staff member travels to your place of employment to facilitate learning.



Who can apply:

All health professionals working in primary care or non-specialist palliative care settings are eligible to apply for a PEPA placement, including:

- * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers, health practitioners, hospital liaison officers and community workers
- * Medical practitioners including GP registrars
- * Nurses
- * Aged care workers
- * Community care workers
- * Migrant and CALD liaison officers
- * Allied health practitioners

Applicants from Regional and Remote Areas are encouraged to apply.

Funding, support and flexibility:

Financial assistance for travel and accommodation may be available. Reimbursement towards Placement backfill is available for the participant's employer (or self-employed GP). Maximum funding amounts and eligibility requirements apply. PEPA is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health through the Palliative Care Education and Training Collaborative.

PEPA activities are recognised CPD activities by:

- * The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
- * The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- * The Australian Council of Rural and Remote Medicine
- * The Royal College of Nursing Australia
- * The Royal Australian College of Physicians Fellows
- * National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers Association

To find out more about PEPA, download an application form or find contact details for the PEPA manager in your state or territory, visit: <http://www.pepaeducation.com>



Indigenous Doctors' Association developing professional skills

AUSTRALIAN Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) doctors, students and associate members from across Australia came together for AIDA 2015, the annual networking and professional development event.

Held on September 16-19 at the Stamford Grand Adelaide, the event was attended by over 200 delegates and provided a variety of activities including workshops, presentations, yarning circles and cultural events.

AIDA 2015 was opened with a traditional smoking ceremony, welcoming delegates to the lands of the Kaurna people. Afterwards, the delegates were taught traditional dances by the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Ngangkari.

The highlight for many of the delegates was the range of workshops that allowed them to develop their professional skills.

"It was a great event, and the conference itself is forever evolving," said AIDA Board member Dr Kiarna Brown.

"This year we have seen the implementation of more practical skills training. For example, the opportunity to go on the Surgical Simulation Bus and attend the Airways Management skills workshop. Such events place delegates in a stimulating and safe environment where they could continue to learn and test their skills."

"The Ice workshop was a great example of how we look at an emerging issue from a more holistic viewpoint, and how we keep our doctors up to date with topical issues," said



AIDA 2015 award winners with Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue.

Chief Executive Officer Kate Thomann.

The event's Ice and Drug Psychosis workshop was jointly delivered by the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

Some delegates took the opportunity to participate in workshops in the broader community, such as visiting the Kalaya Children's Centre. Delegates spent time with the children and taught them about health, the human body, and also promoted

pathways for Indigenous students into medicine.

This year, 11 new graduates were acknowledged by fellow medical professionals and members of AIDA during a special ceremony at the gala dinner. As part of the award ceremony, the inaugural AIDA award winners were also announced and presented with their awards – Dr Raymond Gadd (Indigenous Doctor of the Year), Mr Artiene Tatian (Indigenous Medical Student award), and Ms Gayle Doolan (Associate Member of the Year).

Throughout the event, AIDA was proud to have the support of the Federal Department of Health and gold sponsors – the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Health Education and Training Institute. This year another category of sponsorship was created to support medical students and junior medical officers to attend.

One sponsored student, Ms Selena Blackwell, said that attending this year's event helped to reinvigorate her desire to study medicine, and to see the possibilities open to her as an Aboriginal doctor.

"Throughout my studies I have often felt isolated and alone in my experiences," she said. "But meeting other Aboriginal students and doctors allowed me to realise this was a false belief, and the sharing of our mutual experiences allowed me to feel connected."

AIDA extends its thanks to all partners, members and delegates for their contribution to making AIDA 2015 a resounding success.



Indigenous Peoples' Medical Scholarship 2016

For the assistance and encouragement of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people studying for a medical degree at an Australian University

Applications are now sought for the Australian Medical Association (AMA) Indigenous Peoples' Medical Scholarship for 2016.

Applicants must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background.

Applicants must be currently enrolled full-time at an Australian medical school and at least in their first year of medicine. Preference will be given to applicants who do not already hold any other substantial scholarship.

The Scholarship will be awarded on the recommendation of an advisory committee appointed by the AMA. The value of the Scholarship given in 2016 will be \$10,000 per annum, paid in a lump sum for each year of the course.

The Scholarship will be awarded for a full course of study, subject to review at the end of each year.

Applications close 31 January 2016.

To receive further information and an application package, please contact Sandra Riley, Administration Officer, AMA on 02 6270 5452 or email sriley@ama.com.au

An application package can be downloaded from the AMA website www.ama.com.au/indigenous-peoples-medical-scholarship-2016

The Indigenous Peoples' Medical Scholarship Trust Fund was established in 1994 with a contribution from the Australian Government. The Trust Fund is administered by the Australian Medical Association.

The Australian Medical Association would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the Reuben Pelerman Benevolent Foundation and also the late Beryl Jamieson's wishes for donations towards the Indigenous Peoples' Medical Scholarship.



Carnival a win for health

QUENSLAND Aboriginal and Islander Health Council proudly partnered with the Arthur Beetson Foundation to bring together the fourth Queensland Murri Rugby League Carnival (a smoking-, drug-, sugar- and alcohol-free event. With over 30,000 spectators over the four days, we saw that a continued involvement and participation in active sport and recreational activities as either an athlete, coach, manager or official has long been a major part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the state.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes have virtually lit up playing fields, running tracks, tennis courts and boxing rings, to name but a few arenas, with their prowess and skill over numerous decades.

QAIHC, in its endeavour to promote and maintain a 'health sector' landscape that ensures a capacity to increase access to quality and timely primary health care for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, – 'no matter where they reside or what services they use' – is only too keen to strengthen the sustainability of healthy and active lifestyles across our communities.

The QAIHC Arthur Beetson Foundation Murri Rugby League Carnival pre-event requirement for all players and officials to undertake a comprehensive health check at local community controlled health services underpins the importance of increasing the awareness of having health checks to greatly improve the life expectancy of our peoples.

With over 1500 players in men's, women's



Victorious Southern Dingoes Black players and supporters at this year's Queensland Murri Rugby League Carnival.

and under-15 boys' teams, there were many health checks completed at medical services across Queensland.

The efforts were in collaboration with key organisations and sponsors such as Deadly Choices, University of Queensland, Aurizon, Mission Australia, Queensland Police Service, Defence Force Recruiting, Australian Electoral Commission, My Foot

Dr. FOGS, the State Government Department of Education and many more. A special thanks and appreciation to Redcliffe Leagues Club and Moreton Bay Regional Council.

In 2015, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes continue to build a strong and pre-eminent presence amongst elite sportsmen and sportswomen nationwide.

QAIHC acknowledges the continuing support from the Commonwealth Department of Health for its financial contribution toward this significant annual event, giving us the opportunity to showcase the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle.

– QAIHC Chief Executive Officer
Matthew Cooke

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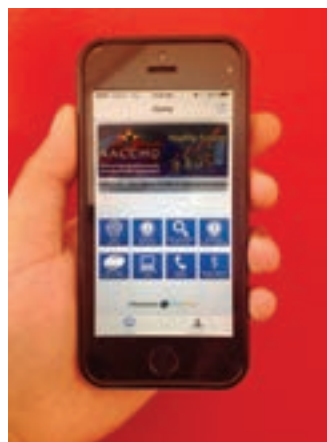


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The **NACCHO APP** contains a geo locator, which will help you find the nearest Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation in your area and also provides health information online on a wide range of topics should you need urgent help.

You can type **NACCHO** into both stores iPhone/iPad or Android and they come up!

10th Anniversary of Close the Gap Video and Photographic Exhibition Touring Australia 2016



Check out our website for further details
<http://www.naccho.org.au/healthyfuturesexhibition>

CONTACT NACCHO

Chair - Matthew Cooke

Tel: 02 6246 9300

Fax: 02 6248 0744

Email: admin@naccho.org.au

Web: www.naccho.org.au

Postal: PO Box 5120 Braddon ACT 2612

Office: Level 3, 221 London Circuit Canberra City ACT 2601

NACCHO NEWS submit Advertising and Editorial
nacchonews@naccho.org.au



Aboriginal health in Aboriginal hands - for a healthy future

Sketches of traditional life

Tommy McRae's sketchbooks tell of life in his home country of Wahgunyah before and after white man invaded it.

Born in the 1830s into the Wiradjuri people, whose homelands extend across the central and southern parts of NSW, Tommy grew up with traditions of carving and weaving in his midst.

Schooled in these traditions McRae draws using directional line reminiscent of a carving action; wielding a variety of line he deftly steers long, short and sinewy marks towards the finest detail and the main action in his works. He describes his country in a simple silhouetted style born of love and detailed observation.

McRae was an astute and independent man. Sometimes described as an entrepreneur, he dressed in European clothes and refrained from both tobacco and alcohol but was an inveterate gambler. He generated an income by making and selling his drawings, boomerangs and other artefacts.

Working exclusively in pen and ink, Tommy charged 10 shillings per sketchbook—customers were required to supply both the standard 8x10 inch sketchbook



Hunting Emus, c 1880, by Tommy Mcrae.

and the pen and ink. They were instructed to return at a later date to collect their illustrated book.

Tommy tells his stories from the ground up. Using strong horizontal lines he defines this ground, preparing it as platform and stage, and signalling for viewers the fundamental importance of country for Aboriginal people. He draws on storytelling traditions, where

episodes of daily events pause briefly in campfire light before being captured into myth and memory. McRae tells his stories as an ancient animator might, compiling frame after frame of illustrations; chapters of Aboriginal daily life and the impacts of colonisation in simple and uncoloured truth.

Many of these sketchbooks are in museums and galleries

across NSW and in several of the large collecting institutions such as the State Library of NSW, the Art Gallery of NSW, the National Museum of Australia and the National Gallery of Victoria. One such sketchbook, now known as the Lucas Sketchbook, passed through Tommy McRae's hands to be illustrated—given to him by an 11 year old English boy, Richard Lucas, who required a set of McRae's illustrations as a gift for his brother dying of tuberculosis in England.

The Lucas Sketchbook was found recently in the bottom of a sea chest, having made its way as a treasured family possession firstly to Zimbabwe and then on to South Africa. The family recently returned it to Australia, where for a handsome sum, it was bought by the National Library.

Throughout his life McRae attracted strong patrons. The Wahgunyah Post Master, Rodrick Kilborn and local doctor William Lang both assisted him in negotiating the punitive bureaucracy of the The Board for the Protection of Aborigines. Through his patrons' support and the proceeds of his art, McRae

Arts Yarn

Our monthly arts column in partnership with

Museums & Galleries of NSW

managed to remain independent of the dreaded mission system though his children were forcibly removed from him in the late 1800s, despite his attempts to relocate them across the Murray River into NSW to escape the hands of the Victorian authorities.

The Corowa Federation Museum has several of Tommy McRae's works in their collection. On display today are a number of high-quality photographic facsimiles depicting the hunting of emus and kangaroo, ceremonial scenes in which the participants wield weapons of war decked out in their body paint, and a single episode of dancers wearing brush about their lower legs whilst their spears are decorated with flags.



Ester Giles, from Tjukurla, Western Australia, collecting gumnuts, 2014. Picture: Ania Freer, Tjanpi Desert Weavers, NPY Women's Council.

New exhibition focuses on fibre



AN exhibition showcasing fibre work that has become a fundamental part of Central and Western Desert culture is now on display at the Western Australian Museum in Perth.

Pampa Mara Tjanpi: Tjanpi works by elderly women from the Ngaanyatjarra Lands features an array of artworks emerging from Tjanpi Desert Weavers, the social enterprise of the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council.

Museum chief executive Alec Coles said NPY Women's Council was formed in response to the land rights struggles of the 1970s when women felt they had no voice and no visibility. They believed that as individuals they would not be heard, but as a strong and collective group they could have a formidable presence.

"Tjanpi, meaning wild harvested

grass, began in 1995 as a series of basket-making workshops facilitated by NPY Women's Council in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands of WA. Women used this art form in pursuit of meaningful and culturally appropriate employment on their homelands to provide for their families," he said.

Building on a long history of using natural fibres to make objects for ceremonial and daily use, women developed coiled basketry techniques and were soon sharing their skills with relatives and friends on neighbouring communities. It was not long before they began experimenting with producing sculptural forms.

"More than 400 women across three states are making spectacular contemporary fibre art from locally collected grasses and working with fibre in this way," Mr Coles said.

Pampa Mara Tjanpi: Tjanpi works by elderly women from the Ngaanyatjarra Lands runs until January 10. Entry is free.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM PRESENTS

Warakurna

All the stories got into our minds and eyes



An exhibition of unique works that document a new art movement emerging from the Western Desert community of Warakurna

Tjukurrpa ngaparrku-ngaparrku nintira nyuntulu-yan kulira nintirinytjaku
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museum



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Warakurna: All the stories got into our minds and eyes is a travelling exhibition developed by the National Museum of Australia. Detail of *Helicopter Ride with Brooksy to See My Father's Ngurra (Country)*, 2011, by Ken Shepherd, one of a collection of artworks by Warakurna Artists, donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Wayne and Vicki McGeoch, National Museum of Australia.

The WA Museum is changing, be part of it. museum.wa.gov.au/new-museum

Mural celebrates musical mentors



Uncle Archie Roach and Uncle Banjo Clarke, a mural by Patricia McKean, 16.



A NEW mural depicting Archie Roach and the late Banjo Clarke (known as 'Uncle Banjo') has been unveiled in Warrnambool, south-western Victoria.

It was commissioned as part of the inaugural Aus Music Festival in Warrnambool, and Roach was honoured as 'artist of the year'.

Liza McCosh, who is senior lecturer in Koorie Education at Deakin University and also director of Warrnambool's SCOPE gallery, said when she was talking to Roach's management about the mural, he asked if Uncle Banjo could also be included. Uncle Banjo was an Elder of the Kirrae Whurrong, a widely respected man by Indigenous and other people, and a mentor to Roach.

Dr McCosh said when Roach came back to Framlingham, a mission where his mother was born near Warrnambool, it was Uncle Banjo who encouraged him to write about his personal experiences in song.

The mural was painted by 16-year-old Patricia McKean, who is a second cousin of Roach and grand daughter of Uncle Banjo. She was mentored and assisted by non-Aboriginal artist Madeline Peters.

Second helping of Desert Divas



THE stories and voices of Aboriginal women across the Northern Territory will be celebrated with MusicNT's *Desert Divas Volume II*, a compilation

album that will feature eight female singer/songwriters from the past six years of Divas music programs.

For six years the MusicNT Desert Divas program has created direct artistic, industry and employment benefits for the girls who participate. The Desert Divas started in 2010 with six participants in Alice Springs and since then has expanded to run programs in Darwin (Saltwater Divas) and Tennant Creek (Barkly Divas). More than 100 Indigenous females aged six to 40 have been involved, and the programs have created far-reaching positive impacts for the NT community through role modelling, leadership, and skills development for Indigenous women in music.

In 2012, the Desert Divas launched central Australia's first all Indigenous female compilation CD *Desert Divas Volume 1*. The CD presented 10 tracks from Desert Diva artists showcasing musical works in many musical genres in traditional language and English. Expressions of interest are now open for *Desert Divas Volume II*. MusicNT will select eight women who have been involved in past Divas programs for an intensive mentoring program with some of Australia's leading professional female recording artists and musicians including Dallas Frasca, Catherine Satour and Steph Harrison from Bat Hazzard.

The eight Divas will have one of their original songs professionally recorded with award-winning



Desert Divas 2015 participant Jaycee-Jai Walker of Alice Springs.

producer Anna Laverty (Something for Kate, Meg Mac, Kate Miller-Heidke) in the CAAMA Studios in Alice Springs.

"Music NT is excited to produce the Divas Volume II initiative," Divas Volume II Coordinator Leah Flanagan said. "It's an incredible opportunity for emerging female singers and songwriters from across the NT to have their songs professionally recorded and their stories shared with thousands of people across the globe. The Divas program has supported over 100 Indigenous women to write and share their songs."

"We look forward to working with the eight who are chosen for this special experience."



Imanpa Band.

Label launches seven albums



CAAMA Music's new grassroots label Therrka has been keeping busy. Since its launch earlier this year, seven new

albums by remote Aboriginal bands have been released, featuring five different languages and contributing about \$25,000 into the central Australian Indigenous music industry through sales, performance income and event staging.

The creation of the Therrka label (meaning 'grass' in the Arrernte language) is designed to support remotely located Aboriginal musicians, and provide a fast-track route for bands to hear and sell their

music within one month of the initial recording process.

Desert Mulga's album launch in March kicked off the regular music series, which has since provided the platform for all seven album launches as well as other special guest performances by Indigenous performers such as Frank Yamma, Coloured Stone, Tjupi Band and Lajamanu Teenage Band.

"Previously the only regular Aboriginal music event in Alice Springs was the Bush Bands Bash, which is an annual event," according to CAAMA Music manager Micheal 'Miko' Smith.

"We've now increased the scope of opportunities massively for Aboriginal bands in central Australia."

These regular events have provided practical experience for CAAMA Music's trainee Aboriginal sound engineers, as well as being a source of casual work for the Music Industry Rangers, trained as part of CAAMA Music's three-year Regional Music Development Program.

This year, Therrka has launched new albums by Desert Mulga, Running Water, North Tanami Band, Central Desert Band, Eastern Reggae, Creekside Reggae and Imanpa – comprising songs sung in Warlpiri, Ngaanyatjarra, Luritja, Eastern Arrernte and Yunkuntjarra.

All Therrka releases are available for sale on iTunes and the CAAMA Music website.

Quit smoking for good



Toowoomba resident Denis Jackson with Toowoomba community health pharmacist Joh Bou-Samra.



A NEW service has been established at the Toowoomba Hospital to help Indigenous people struggling to quit smoking.

Under the service, community health pharmacist Johanna Bou-Samra conducts smoking-cessation clinics three days a week.

"The clinics are based on the Sydney University Brain and Mind Institute Smokers Clinics," Ms Bou-Samra said.

"Each client is assessed for nicotine dependence during an initial one-hour consultation. Treatment is then tailored to the patient's dependency level.

"These treatments are based on scientific evidence and have been shown to give the best long-term results.

"We focus on ensuring that quitting smoking is as comfortable as possible.

"We do not set quit dates or ask the patients not to smoke. We keep tailoring the treatment until they completely lose interest in smoking."

Since the clinics started at the beginning of the year, dozens of clients have taken part, resulting in a number of former smokers, including Toowoomba resident Denis Jackson.

After being a smoker for nearly 50 years, Mr Jackson now proudly credits himself as a non-smoker, thanks to the help he received in the clinics.

He trialled a number of quit methods including patches and medication before settling on a nicotine spray to control his cravings and strong mindset to break the habit.

"Over the years I used to give up for six, eight or even 12 months at a time, but I would always go back to smoking," Mr Jackson said.

"But now I've completely given up for good."

Mr Jackson said it was a stint in the intensive care unit at the Toowoomba Hospital that finally convinced him needed to quit smoking.

"When I used to smoke, every winter I would end up in hospital," he said.

"But last year I nearly died; I was in ICU for 13 days.

"That was my wake-up call; that (experience) and the help from Joh are the things that made me stop smoking."

It's been more than 12 months since Mr Jackson gave up cigarettes, and he is now inspiring his friends and family to follow in his footpath.

For more information, contact Ms Bou-Samra on (07) 4616 6918 or 4616 6831.

Sexual health action needed



QUEENSLAND'S peak Aboriginal and Islander health body has called for changes to health screening and increased investment into sexual health in the face of Australia's biggest reported syphilis outbreak in 30 years.

The Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) said the outbreak in remote Northern Australia, including more than 500 cases in Queensland since the outbreak started in 2010, indicates a need for greater funds to deal with sexual health and greater allocation of research money to combat syphilis, other blood-borne viruses (BBVs) and sexually transmitted infections.

"Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector is not funded for specific sexual health/BBV programs, but our member services ensure that sexual health and BBVs are not overlooked," QAIHC's Sandy Gillies said.

"However, in light of these alarming new statistics, it is clear that specific sexual health/BBV programs need to be established and funded by Governments. We need dedicated sexual health workers and sexual health/BBV programs in all members' services.

"And given what we now know about the demographics of this outbreak we need some changes to the regime of health screening being regularly offered to our people.

"Adult health checks need to

include a mandatory sexual health screening for blood borne viruses including syphilis and HIV and, importantly, given the reported deaths of three infants from congenital syphilis, where the infection is passed from a mother during pregnancy and/or birth onto the infant, all ante-natal patients should be encouraged to have a syphilis, HIV and STI screening. Young people 15 -24 also need to be screened regularly.

"In addition, there needs to be better engagement and involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the outbreak response, especially in areas where the outbreak is occurring and adjacent areas."

Ms Gillies said the recent formation of an engaging Aboriginal communities sub-group in a Multijurisdictional Syphilis Outbreak Committee was a good start to improving the response and he looked forward to QAIHC being able to facilitate engagement between medical authorities trying to limit the outbreak and the Indigenous communities affected.

"Overcoming this outbreak will require collaboration between our sector and Queensland Health and some additional resources," she said.

"The outbreak is a serious indictment on sexual health clinical care outcomes with the infectious syphilis notification rate in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population 300 times higher than the non-Indigenous population in remote areas during 2014."



Health

Be deadly in your



Aboriginal Nursing & Midwifery Cadetship and Scholarships Programs

Applications now open

Make a real difference and help improve the health of our Mob

NSW Health is consistently working towards building a competent and culturally safe workforce. This is your opportunity to make a difference in meeting the needs of our Mob so that we can enjoy a longer, healthier life, free from disease and illness. The Aboriginal Nursing & Midwifery Strategy offers financial assistance and support for Aboriginal people enrolled in nursing and midwifery studies through our cadetship and scholarships.

Find out more and apply

For further information, please contact The Aboriginal Strategy NSW Nursing & Midwifery Office:

Freecall: 1800 155 325

Email: aboriginalnursing@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.health.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal-nursing

Cadetship and Scholarships on offer

NSW Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Cadetship Program
Close 27 November 2015

Aboriginal Undergraduate Scholarships
Close 19 February 2016

Aboriginal Postgraduate Scholarships
Close 19 February 2016

Aboriginal Post-Enrolment Scholarships
Open all year round

Role model for healthy life



AS a health worker in Hope Vale, Georgia Gibson (pictured) believes in practising what she preaches. In educating Indigenous people about the importance of exercise and good nutrition, Ms Gibson was so busy helping others that her own health took a back seat.

After seeing a photo of herself at Christmas last year where she tipped the scales at 100kg, Ms Gibson decided she had to 'walk the talk'. She became a participant in Apunipima's 12-week lifestyle program, Beat IT, in March and has continued on with success.

In Hope Vale, Apunipima Cape York Health Council worked with Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council and PCYC to deliver Beat IT, a lifestyle modification program developed by the Australian Diabetes Council. The program increases knowledge on eating healthy and the importance of staying active to reduce the risk of chronic disease. The Beat IT team includes qualified trainers, doctors, diabetes educators and a dietitian.

After completing the program, Ms Gibson has lost more than 20kg and continues to lose weight with her goal to lose another 5kg before Christmas.

"I walked and walked and walked because there's no access to gyms in Hope Vale," Ms Gibson said. "I followed a meal plan from Apunipima's dietitian and started cooking my own meals. I'd spend \$50 on fruit and veg and that would last me a week and I'd buy lean meat from the butcher's in town.

"I thought if I'm going to be telling people that they need to choose healthy foods and exercise then I had better do it



myself," she said. "I am a big believer in leading by example."

By exercising daily and eating fresh fruit and vegetables, Ms Gibson is setting a trend for her mob in the Cape.

Public health registrar Dr Alister

Keyser said Ms Gibson is an inspiration not only to her peers but health professionals everywhere.

"The Beat IT program within our organisation is about healthy lifestyle choices and Georgia is living proof that

making healthy food choices combined with exercise works," he said.

"She is helping to Close the Gap in our Indigenous communities and is a role model for her people and health professionals."

Diabetes study seeks your data



A SOUTH Australian research group is looking for Aboriginal people to help answer questions about diabetes.

On World Diabetes Day, November 14, the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute's (SAHMRI) Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit formally launched the Aboriginal Diabetes Study.

The largest of its kind, the Aboriginal Diabetes Study will work with more than 4000 Aboriginal people in SA to better understand the burden, development and causes of diabetes and its eye, heart, kidney and circulatory complications.

Type 2 diabetes affects over 400 million people and represents a complex global challenge. It significantly impairs quality and length of life and is a common cause of sickness and death in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, at rates three to four times higher than that seen in other Australians. Importantly, it is increasingly being recognised in Aboriginal children and adolescents.

SAHMRI's Aboriginal health theme leader Professor Alex Brown said the study is seeking to better understand why there is such a high rate of diabetes and

diabetic complications amongst Aboriginal people, and to better predict how complications develop.

"We are committed to generating research results that could be translated into practice," he said. "We hope that this work will help to optimise the delivery of existing therapies, offer better treatment of type 2 diabetes, and prevent its complications for Aboriginal communities.

"We aim to recruit one in six Aboriginal people over 15 years of age in SA. Each person will be asked to give us a short amount of their time to provide us with vital information on the factors associated with diabetes and the risks of developing diabetes.

"We are especially interested in looking at the complications of diabetes, such as kidney, eye, feet and heart problems. We will carry out preliminary genomic investigations to seek novel causes and differences that may explain the development of complications."

Prof Brown said, to make a real difference for Aboriginal communities, the Aboriginal Diabetes Study needs the assistance of Aboriginal people, communities and organisations right across SA.

"We need to assess 2000 people with

diabetes and 2000 people who do not have it," he said.

"So if you are aged 15 or over and are Aboriginal, whether you have diabetes or not, we need your help.

"We are delighted to be partnering with so many communities in SA and are really excited, as this is an amazing opportunity for us to make some really needed improvements to the lives of Aboriginal people for generations to come."

Prof Paul Zimmet, co-chair of the Federal Government's National Diabetes Strategy Advisory Group, said the rates of diabetes, its complications and the premature deaths from diabetes in Indigenous communities are totally unacceptable. This landmark study can provide a better understanding of the drivers of diabetes in this community, and the strategies needed to reverse this epidemic.

For more information go to www.aboriginaldiabetes.com, or on Facebook (www.facebook.com/aboriginaldiabetesstudy) where people can register to be involved or simply ask questions to help give them a better picture of the study and the institute's work more broadly.

Booklet details cancer services in Adelaide



A NEW booklet developed by Broken Hill-based Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation in partnership with NSW Far West Local Health District's Cancer Services is now available to help

Aboriginal clients successfully negotiate cancer services available in Adelaide.

Maari Ma manager of community engagement Kaylene Kemp said the booklet has been developed through a grant from the NSW Cancer Institute.

"The funding enabled our clinic team manager and the Far West Local Health District cancer care coordinator to travel to Adelaide to see the cancer services first-hand which very much helped in developing the booklet," she said.

"The booklet provides our clients with straightforward information about cancer and cancer treatments, accommodation, transport, hospitals and their Aboriginal liaison staff, which is extremely useful when having to travel to unfamiliar places at what is most likely the scariest time in a person's life.

"It also gives useful reminders about what you might need to take with you when you need to travel to access cancer services – things like referral letters and scans, and prescriptions.

"At the end of the day, whatever we can do to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people with cancer, we need to do and we hope this booklet will be part of that solution."

The partnership also provided for six Maari Ma staff – five Aboriginal health workers and one registered nurse – to undertake a two-day placement with the local cancer services team.

Students get set for university life



Kade Green, 19, from Tennant Creek, finds out about exercise and sports science courses at Charles Darwin University.



INDIGENOUS youths from the Barkly and East Arnhem Land have experienced university life in the Top End during a recent program at Charles Darwin University (CDU).

The 13 teenagers from Yirrkala and

Tennant Creek discovered career pathways offered at CDU's Casuarina and Palmerston campuses, and toured Darwin to familiarise themselves with the area during the program.

Participants stayed at International House Darwin and learned about Higher Education and Vocational

Education and Training courses at CDU, including nursing, digital media production, music, exercise and sports science, engineering, horticulture and aquaculture, hairdressing and beauty.

The students met CDU's Indigenous student ambassadors and toured

facilities including the CDU Library and the Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Education. They also visited the Batchelor Institute.

The visit was facilitated by the CDU Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership.

Medical students supported by AMA



THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) is now accepting applications for the 2016 Indigenous Peoples' Medical Scholarship.

The successful applicant will receive \$10,000 each year for the duration of their course.

AMA president Brian Owler said a highly skilled medical workforce that includes more Indigenous doctors and health professionals is an important part in reducing health inequalities for Indigenous Australians.

"The AMA scholarship aims to help increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the medical workforce," he said.

"Increasing the number of Indigenous doctors and health workers improves access to culturally appropriate health care and services, and ensures medical services respond properly to the

unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"Previous AMA scholarship recipients have graduated to work in Indigenous and mainstream health services, and some have spent time providing care in their own communities.

"These wonderful doctors are now the pride of the medical profession and their communities, and role models for Indigenous Australians who want a career as a doctor or other health professional."

Applications for the scholarship must be received by January 31.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be currently enrolled at an Australian medical school, and be in at least their first year of medicine.

Applicants must be people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background.

For further information on how to apply go to ama.com.au/indigenous-peoples-medical-scholarship-2016

Scholarships reward talent in Gladstone



Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) is again offering a Talent Today, Talent Tomorrow scholarship program for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander students starting or continuing tertiary study in 2016.

Now in its second year, the scholarship program aims to increase opportunities for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander people by recognising and rewarding study efforts, and to encourage continued education.

The scholarship provides one student from the Gladstone region who is enrolled in an undergraduate program at an Australian university with financial support.

Successful applicants receive a payment of \$3500 on successful completion of each semester for a total of \$7000 annually, for up to three years.

Scholarship recipients whose study aligns with GPC's areas of business, such as engineering, environmental science, business, finance, human resources or community relations, can also apply for a six-week paid vacation placement with GPC each year during their scholarship program. Interested candidates are invited to apply from February 1 until March 11 next year. More information at www.gpcl.com.au

Inmates can now access learning opportunities



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander inmates at the Darwin Correctional Centre (DCC) will be able to access education, after a purpose-built Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary

Education Campus opened at the centre.

DCC general manager Bill Carroll said the facility was a self-contained complex occupying a separate area of the Correctional Centre precinct.

"The campus comprises classrooms, computers labs, a music studio, an art room, a pottery workshop, a library, and other teaching facilities," he said.

"Education programs at the campus are delivered by the Batchelor Institute and taught by Batchelor staff under a partnership agreement between the Department of Correctional Services and the Batchelor Institute.

"At present prisoners can enrol in five different certificate-level courses: Access to Vocational Pathways, Visuals Arts, Construction, Cleaning Operations and Indigenous Environmental Health."

Mr Carroll said the Access to Vocational Pathways course is a foundations skills program focusing on literacy and numeracy.

Girls are going great



The winning artists Naphiena Johnson and Grace Stewart (centre) with Mallee District Aboriginal Services ambassador, Ada Peterson (left) and MDAS board member Pam McCormack (right).



A PROGRAM aiming to keep girls in school at Mildura is going from strength to strength.

The national Clontarf Academy program has been an effective tool for keeping Aboriginal boys in school through sport for more than a decade, and now a program at Mildura's Chaffey Secondary College is doing the same for girls.

The Koorie Girls' Academy program,

established as a pilot project in 2013, now involves up to 50 girls from Years seven to 10. It is matched by an equivalent program at the Mildura Senior College for students in Years 11 and 12.

The academy brings in students through a health and fitness focus and offers after-school activities, such as women's business, sexual health, health and beauty, gym, boot camp and overall wellbeing.

The academy will soon also have its

own logo, after a design competition among Academy participants, sponsored by Mallee District Aboriginal Services.

The budding young artists whose designs were chosen as the basis for the logo were Naphiena Johnson and Grace Stewart.

They will now work with two local artists to combine their concepts into one final artwork to be unveiled at the academy's first awards night in December.

Singleton scholarship available to Cape York students



APUNIPIMA Cape York Health Council has opened the next round of applications for its Bernie Singleton Scholarship.

The scholarship aims to provide support to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people from Cape York communities to undertake a fulltime university qualification in health or management-related studies. The recipient gets \$2500 each year for three years to put toward fees or personal incidentals.

Bernie Singleton, a former chairman of Apunipima, has had a career in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs spanning 50 years, often acting as cultural broker for the organisations he has worked for and represented over the years.

Apunipima chairman Thomas Hudson said: "We are delighted to be able to offer this scholarship and feel that it will be of great benefit to the young people of Cape York."

"Not only does it recognise and acknowledge Bernie's values, but it also fits with today's strategic objectives of building capacity and capability into Cape York."

Applications close on Friday, December 18. For more information go to apunipima.org.au/work-for-us

Partners in success



A DECADE-long partnership between a remote school and Rio Tinto's Weipa bauxite mine in far north Queensland

has been recognised for delivering quality education and creating career opportunities for Indigenous and other people on Cape York.

The partnership between Western Cape College and Rio Tinto Weipa was named winner for Excellence in Industry Partnerships at the Queensland Government Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools.

Since the partnership began, the Western Cape College has led to increases in:

- senior certificates awarded, from 16 to 46;
- senior certificates awarded to Indigenous students, from 7 to 20;
- students eligible for an OP, from 5 to 14;
- students receiving a Queensland senior school qualification (QCE), from 0 to 41; and
- retention of Year 10-12 students, more than



Yupungathi man PJ Ahmat, left, graduated from Western Cape College last year and is now completing an apprenticeship at Rio Tinto's Weipa bauxite mine.

doubling from 42% to 97%.

One of the people to benefit from the partnership is Weipa

local Michelle Radlof, who is working at Rio Tinto's Weipa mine as a civil and

environmental engineer, after graduating from the Western Cape College in 2007 and

studying at university through a scholarship offered by Rio Tinto.

"The partnership provided me with opportunities that I wouldn't have received elsewhere, including work experience and graduate placement," she said.

"Students studying at the Western Cape College are truly not disadvantaged by living in a remote location. They are actually better off because of the partnership."

Rio Tinto's Gareth Manderson said the partnership is one that is valued highly.

"We have a real opportunity to support the development of the region through education, as around 30% of the Western Cape population is under 14 compared to a state average of 20%."

"We look forward to continuing to build on the already strong foundation, and strengthening tertiary pathways through linkages with James Cook University and Central Queensland University to promote outcomes beyond mining."

We welcome items for our National Calendar of Events. Keep them short and include a daytime telephone contact number. Send them to any of the addresses in the panel on page 23.

National

Ongoing: Lifeline – saving lives, crisis support, suicide prevention. For assistance call 13 11 14.

Carer Line is a free national telephone information and support service for and about carers that provides access to information, emotional support and referrals to a range of services for carers. Call 1800 242 636, Monday to Friday.

The Better Start for Children With Disability Initiative. Children who are eligible for the program can access funding of up to \$12,000 each financial year for a range of early intervention services. Children must be registered before age six. For more information, call the Registration and Information Service on 1800 242 636 or visit www.carersnsw.org.au

November 20-22 and December 4 and 11: Frank Yamma tour performances. Frank winds up 2015 with performances across the country, including Katoomba, Newcastle, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne. For further information, including tickets, venues and times, visit www.frankgamma.com

South Australia

Until January 10: *Riverland* exhibition. As part of the Tarnanthi Festival, this is a survey exhibition of master Ngarrindjeri weaver Yvonne Koolmatrie's work. Held at the Art Gallery of SA, North Terrace, Adelaide. Open daily from 10am-5pm. Free entry. Details: (08) 8207 7000 or visit www.artgallery.sa.gov.au

December 1: Elliott Johnson Memorial Lecture. Associate Professor Jacinta Ruru talks on how the common law and legislation ought to be embracing Indigenous law, providing a comparative perspective with Aotearoa (New Zealand). Held at Pilgrim Uniting Church (opposite Flinders University, Victoria Square), 12 Flinders St, Adelaide from 5.30pm. RSVP by November 25th. Details: Claire Treacy on (08) 8201 5028 or email Claire.treacy@flinders.edu.au

NSW-ACT

Ongoing: ACE Community College Aboriginal driver training. Held at ACE Community College, 59 Magellan St, Lismore. Details: (02) 6622 1903 or text 0429 423 116.

Ongoing: TeleYarn, a Red Cross project that provides phone calls to Indigenous people across NSW who would benefit from a regular yarn. Details: Kerrie on 0429 151 112.

Ongoing: Courses in Aboriginal languages at Grafton, Maclean, Lismore, Casino, Kingscliff, Ballina, Coffs Harbour, Macksville, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, Taree and Forster. Register interest at nctafe.aboriginallearningcircle.com

IPROWD Education and Training Program now open. Assisting Aboriginal people to gain entry into the NSW Police Force. Details: 1300 823 393 or 1300 830 177 or email iprowd@tafensw.edu.au or visit www.iprowd.tafensw.edu.au

Until November 19: Registrations open for Building Kinnections: Disability information group for Aboriginal services forum at the Dubbo RSL Club on December

Donovan to headline Big West Festival



EMMA Donovan and the Putbacks are set to perform at the biennial Big West Festival in Footscray later this month.

Emma Donovan started her musical career by performing in her uncle's band The Donovans before branching out to perform in bands such as the Stiff Gins and the Putbacks.

While Ms Donovan's father is Naaguja and Yamatji and her mother is Danggali and Gumbaynggirr, Ms Donovan has said that she identifies most strongly with her Gumbaynggirr heritage.

Also performing will be singer-songwriters Elder Robert Bundle and Mutti Mutti man Kutcha Edwards.

The Big West Festival was created in 1997 and aims to create programs that unite isolated and remote communities through arts and culture, and is now one of the country's most respected community-based arts events.

The artists will close the nine-day festival at the Footscray Park Bowling Club in the heart of Footscray in Wurundjeri country.



Emma Donovan and the Putbacks.

2. Limited places, and early registration is encouraged. Details: 1300 134 450 or visit www.western.iri@facs.nsw.gov.au

Until November 22: *Belonging Now, Personified Landscapes* exhibition. Featuring works by the Aboriginal Women's Artists Collective. Held at Boomalli Aboriginal Co-op, 55-59 Flood St, Leichhardt, Wed-Sun, 11am-4pm. Cost: Free gallery entry. Details: (02) 9560 2541 or visit www.boomalli.com.au

Until November 30: Gadigal '99 Stories' Project. An audio archive project asking Sydney's Indigenous communities to record and document 99 stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experience, particularly stories of cultural, historical and traditional significance. Details: Daniel Tuwai on (02) 9384 4000 or visit www.kooriradio.com

Until November 30: Aboriginal Dementia Yarn Up events. This new program by Alzheimer's Australia NSW aims to educate Aboriginal Elders about dementia. It involves five Yarn Up events at Aboriginal communities in the Bega Valley and Eurobodalla shires. For information on dates, times and locations, contact Alzheimer's Australia NSW on (02) 6492 6158.

November 19-20: Bundjalung language and culture workshop. Hosted by Gribi College, Southern Cross Uni, anyone interested in Bundjalung language invited to attend the two-day workshop. Held at Invercauld House, 161 Invercauld Road, Goonellabah. Details: Virginia Ingham on (02) 6620 3959 or email virginia.ingham@scu.edu.au. RSVP for catering purpose

November 21-22: Homeground Festival 2015. A free weekend festival of First Nations culture, music, dance and arts. Held at the Western Broadwalk, Sydney Opera House. Details: (02) 9250 7777 or visit sydneyoperahouse.com

November 21-22: Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) fishing competition for people with disability. To celebrate International Day of People with Disability. All participants get a fishing pack. Sign on at Lions Park, Ferry Street, Macksville on Saturday at 7.30am. You can fish from the Nambucca Valley to Coffs Harbour. Fishing hours from 9am-4pm daily. Cost: \$15 per person. Details: Lee on 0421 055 992 or email northernrivers@scia.org.au or Mark on 0432 485 118 or email spanner5870@yahoo.com.au or scia.org.au/fishing

November 25-28: *Kamu* performance. NAISDA's 2015 graduating season performance, epitomises the continued cultivation of cultural values towards the health of our land and seas. Held at Sydney's Carriage Works, 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh. Details: (02) 8571 9099, for tickets, dates and times go to www.carriageworks.com.au

November 26: 'Did Ya Know Day' family law information session. Find out about early intervention, family law, family violence and care and protection, includes speakers and a Q & A panel of members. Held at Jullum Room, Jingi Wahla, Ballina Surf Club, Lighthouse Parade, East Ballina, from 9am-1pm. Free to attend. Details: Hayley Foster on (02) 6623 2700 or email coordinator@pathways-northernrivers.org.au

November 26: *Dancing on Sacred Land* fundraiser and doco film premier plus Q & A. Filmmaker Sharon Shostak follows the journey of 30 dancers to Laura Dance festival 2100km from their home in Northern NSW. Held at Byron Community Centre, Byron Bay from 6pm. Cost: \$15 per person. Details: (02) 6672 41888

November 27: Men's 'Walk A Mile Goori Style' White Ribbon event. A march for local men for white ribbon to stop violence against women and children. Includes information stalls, entertainment, sausage sizzle and more. Held at Jack Evans Boat Harbour, Wharf St, Tweed Heads, from 11am. The men's march will commence at 10am. Free and all welcome. Details: Charlie Fay on 0428 237 038 or Letitia Kelly on 0427 989 470

November 27-December 5: *Ochres* performance. Bangarra Dance Theatre's 1994 much anticipated classic *Ochres* returns to the stage for 9 shows only. Held at Sydney's Carriage Works, 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh. Details: (02) 8571 9099, for tickets, dates and times go to www.carriageworks.com.au

November 28: *Dancing on Sacred Land* fundraiser and doco film premier. Filmmaker Sharon Shostak follows the journey of 30 dancers to Laura Dance festival 2100km from their home in Northern NSW, includes dance performance and welcome to country. Held at Regent Cinema, Murwillumbah, from 5-7pm Cost: \$15 per person. Details: (02) 6672 41888.

● Continued next page

Festival focus on dance and culture



YOUNG Aboriginal people from the Nambucca and Bellingen regions are being invited to participate in the third annual Saltwater Freshwater dance and cultural camp in December.

The free camp will be held at Valla Beach, on Gumbaynggirr country, northern NSW, on December 9-11.

There are 24 places available for Aboriginal people aged 14-18 living in the Macksville, Bowraville, Nambucca, Bellingen, Urunga and Valla regions.

Over the three days, participants will work with local dance coaches to learn the (Our) Flash Mob dance.

As well as dance, the teenagers will experience cultural workshops, including didgeridoo, traditional weaving and art, and bush walks with Elders and local community leaders.

Following the camp, the participants will form the (Our) Flash

Mob and perform a dance that blends traditional Aboriginal and contemporary dance moves, choreographed around the theme of the region's many waterways.

Charity-Faith-Hope Brooker, a young Biripi woman from Taree, attended the Saltwater Freshwater Camp last year and was one of a handful of talented young Mid North Coast dancers chosen to attend NAISDA state dance camp.

Charity will also be attending the 2015 camp sharing her skills with the younger participants as a peer mentor.

"It was the most amazing experience, meeting new people who taught us not just to respect our culture and our land, but also to respect ourselves as individuals," she said.

For more information or to apply, call 6658 1315 or message Saltwater Freshwater via Facebook: www.facebook.com/swfw.arts



Participants in last year's Saltwater Freshwater dance and cultural camp

● From previous page

November 30-December 1: Money Counts information session. Get free legal help and advice on unpaid fines, rent, housing, energy bills, debts, phone bills and more, includes lunch. Held at the Barnook Centre, Baryulgil, on November 30 from 10am-2pm and Pipi Beach Village, Yamba on December 1 from 9.30am-12.30pm and Nungera Aboriginal Co-op, Maclean on December 1 from 1-4pm. Free to attend. Details: Legal Aid on (02) 9219 5057 or Grafton ALS on (02) 6640 1400

Queensland

November 19-April 9: *Brutal Truths* exhibition. Showcasing three major installations of provocative and politically engaged works encompassing drawings, paintings, text works and videos, official opening on Sunday, November 22 at 5.30pm. Held at Griffith University Art Gallery, Queensland College of Art, 226 Grey St, South Bank from Tues-Sat, 11am-4pm. Free entry. Details: Lauren on 0418 799 544 or visit www.griffith.edu.au/visual-creative-arts/griffith-artworks/exhibition-program

November 30: 'You and Me can stop HIV' Awareness Week launch. Learn how we all can Stop HIV. Guest speaker, entertainment and a BBQ lunch. Held at Wuchopperen Health Service, 6 Moignard Street, Manoora, Cairns from 10.30am-12pm. RSVP by November 23. Details: atsihaw@sahmri.com Twitter: @atsihaw#uandmecanstopshiv, Facebook - ATSIHAW

November 30-December 6: 'Clancestry, a Celebration of Country' annual festival. Encouraging people from all over Australia to connect with and take pride in the arts and culture of First Nations peoples. Held at Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), Cultural Centre, South Bank, and The Courier-Mail Pizza, South Bank, Brisbane. Free event. Details: Tracey on (07) 3840 7984. Bookings qpac.com.au/clancestry or 136 246

Victoria

December 3: *Connect to Country for Christmas* exhibition opening. New art works by local Aboriginal artists includes paintings, ceramics, woodwork and textiles. Held at Gallery Kaiela, 137-139 High St,

Shepparton from 3-6pm. RSVP on (03) 5821 9842 or email info@gallerykaiela.com.au. Exhibition closes January 21, 2016

Northern Territory

Until November 27: Sista Sounds workshops. MusicNT's annual program of music workshops for Indigenous women and girls in remote communities across Central Australia. Held at centres including Fregon, Mutitjulu, Santa Teresa, Kiwirrkurra, Papunya and Elliott. Details: (08) 8981 1995 or email sistasounds@musicnt.com.au or visit www.musicnt.com.au

Tasmania

December 4: 'Mannalargenna Day'. Commemorate our Tasmanian warrior and the legacy left to us all, 1775-1835. Mannalargenna, a warrior, shaman, chief

and skilled diplomat, he waged war on the white men after being betrayed by sealers, before eventually joining Robinson's 'friendly mission'. Pause a moment and consider what may have been... should have been.

Western Australia

Until November 29: *Indigenous Australians at War From the Boer War to the Present* exhibition. A photograph-based touring exhibition created by the Shrine of Remembrance.

Stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service and sacrifice during the Boer War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, subsequent conflicts and peace-keeping operations are presented through 75 images.

Held at the West Australian Museum, Geraldton, 2 Museum place, Batavia Coast marina, Geraldton, open daily from 9.30am-4pm. Free entry.

Details: (08) 9921 5080 or visit www.museum.wa.gov.au/museums/geraldton

Until January 10: *Pampa Mara Tjanpi* exhibition. An exhibition of contemporary fibre textiles, from 12 artists over the age of 70 years, representing six remote communities of the Ngaanyatjarra lands of WA. Held at the Perth Cultural Centre, James St, Perth, open daily from 9.30am-5pm. Free entry. Details: (08) 9212 3700 or 1300 134 081 or visit www.museum.wa.gov.au/museums/perth

Until January 10: *Warakurna: All the Stories got into Our Minds and Eyes* exhibition. An exhibition of contemporary works that document a new art movement emerging from the Western Desert community of Warakurna. Held at the Perth Cultural Centre, James St, Perth, open daily from 9.30am-5pm. Free entry. Details: (08) 9212 3700 or 1300 134 081 or visit www.museum.wa.gov.au/museums/perth

Minister to open one-night exhibition



NSW Aboriginal Affairs Minister Leslie Williams will officially open the *MAX Employment 2015 Indigenous Art Exhibition* tomorrow

(November 19) at the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence.

He will be accompanied by MAX Employment managing director Deborah Homewood, Australian Aboriginal leader Warren Mundine, and Indigenous Art competition prizewinner Belynda Waugh and youth prizewinner Jyi Lawton.

The exhibition is a one-night-only display of 12 finalist pieces from the 2015 MAX Indigenous art competition, held earlier in the year.

Submissions were received from throughout Australia, and Ms Homewood said the calibre of submissions was extremely high.

"We were thrilled to receive a huge amount of entries this year from some incredibly talented artists," she said.

"It's wonderful to see the diversity and tradition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture being celebrated



Nama Gibam II - To Hold the Moon, by Belynda Waugh.

in such creative ways."

Ms Homewood said a feature tomorrow night would be a \$2000 donation to the La Perouse Land Council, to be presented by Mr Williams, and the presentation of prizes for the major competition winners.

"The La Perouse Land Council works tirelessly to reconnect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to their traditional culture," Ms

Homewood said.

"We are proud to donate to the La Perouse Land Council to further this cause."

A cheque will also be presented to major winner Belynda 'Bindi' Waugh, who said that the announcement of her submission *Nama Gibam II - To Hold the Moon* winning the major prize came as a shock.

"It was a lovely surprise, I wasn't expecting to win. It's a real honour to have the piece featured at the exhibition and be able to come down and have a look at all the other finalist entries," Ms Waugh said.

"*To Hold the Moon* was part of a series I worked on; it came from a train of thought I had about appreciating what you have. The painting represents the light and darkness, and says that sometimes you need to acknowledge the darkness to appreciate the light."

The *MAX Employment 2015 Indigenous Art Exhibition* will start at 5.30pm tomorrow at Yaama Dhiyaan Exhibition Building, National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, 255 Wilson Street, Darlington.



Constructing a shade tunnel are, from left, specialist trainer Bryan Casey and Green Army members Liam Watson and Gareth Bangu.



BUILDING capacity to engage more broadly in Natural Resource Management is the focus of the Green Army project

launched recently by Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Community (JBAC), in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

The Green Army is a hands-on, practical environmental action program that supports local environmental and heritage conservation projects across

Australia. It is an Australian Government program for young Australians aged 17–24 years who are interested in protecting their local environment.

The first of three Jarlmadangah Burru Green Army projects commenced mid-August, with its main task being the construction of a plant propagation nursery on the remote community. This propagation nursery will provide JBAC with the capacity to grow local provenance native plants which will then be used for revegetating the national

heritage listed Fitzroy River floodplains.

Caring for country, rehabilitating degraded landscapes and bringing back healthy populations of bush food and medicine plants is a priority for the Nyikina Mangala, traditional owners of the Fitzroy River floodplains. Decades of overgrazing and inappropriate fire regimes, combined with riverbank erosion, have seen significant decline in traditional Aboriginal bush food and medicine plants but the community elders are

determined to reverse this trend.

Ten weeks into the 21-week project, the JBAC Green Army team has constructed two 6m by 19m shade tunnels, erected a carport as a nursery work area, and erected 100 metres of chain wire fencing around the nursery compound, plus helped lay underground power and irrigation mains to the nursery.

Over the next few months the Green Army team will complete the nursery setup, which includes laying a slab to the work area and gravelling the nursery compound, and setting

up the irrigation in the shade tunnels. They will then begin seed collection and plant propagation activities.

Jarlmadangah Burru community chairwoman Leela Watson said the project was important.

“Our Elders are very pleased with the progress being made with this project,” she said.

“It is fulfilling a long-held desire to give the community the capacity to bring our important cultural plants, the bush food and medicine plants, back into the landscape.”

It's your guide to employment

Welcome to the *Koori Mail's* Indigenous Job Opportunities section. Each edition we publish scores of employment advertisements from around the nation. To be part of this section, simply give our advertising staff a call on (02) 66 222 666, email advertising@koorimail.com or see our website – www.koorimail.com

Koori Mail – Our ABC audit means our readership is guaranteed. No other newspaper aimed at the Indigenous market can offer this!

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Department of Health & Human Services

Senior Project Officer – Indigenous Family Violence

- North Division
- Community Participation, North East Melbourne Area
- Salary: \$86,493 – 104,650 (+ Superannuation)
- Full-time / Ongoing / Fixed Term: Full-time, Fixed Term (12 months)

Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Groups – IFVRAGs – are key local platforms for responding to Indigenous Family Violence across the state. This position will strengthen the delivery of the North Metropolitan IFVRAG by

- conducting a review of its strategic plan.
- developing a new strategic plan with IFVRAG partners
- establishing an effective annual implementation plan to coordinate the collective action of partners
- maximising the impact of local resources in advance of the findings of the Royal Commission into Family Violence and also in response to its recommendations.

ONLY INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY AS THIS POSITION IS EXEMPT UNDER THE SPECIAL MEASURES PROVISION, SECTION 12(1) OF THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT 2010 (VIC)

Contact info:

Name: **Ian Adotey**

Phone no: **9412 5436**

Position Reference number: **DHHS/ND/461884**

Closing date for applications: **Sunday 6 December 2015**

For more information about the Department of Health & Human Services visit **www.dhhs.vic.gov.au**

To apply online and for other DHHS and Victorian Government job opportunities please visit **www.careers.vic.gov.au**

Police Checks form part of the Department of Health & Human Services recruitment process.

The department promotes diversity and equal opportunity in employment and is committed to a more diverse workforce.

If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander applicant, or if you have a disability, and require advice and support with the recruitment process, please contact our Diversity Unit on DiversityInclusion@dhhs.vic.gov.au



Z0581202



Solicitor – Financial Hardship (Aboriginal Targeted)

- Package up to \$115k (Legal Officer Grade I-III)
- Ongoing Opportunity in Newcastle (35 hpw)

We are looking for a solicitor to work in Newcastle to provide high quality, targeted legal services to communities in the Hunter region who are experiencing financial hardship, with the aim of achieving systemic outcomes. The successful candidate will work collaboratively with stakeholders and solicitors to creatively develop and deliver this service.

Apply Online: www.jobs.nsw.gov.au

Jobs NSW Ref. No. 000041J3

Closing Date: Wednesday, 25th November 2015

Enquiries: David Coorey on (02) 9219 5824

Z07500



HOUSE PARENTS / BOARDING SUPERVISORS

Start January 2016
Richmond VIC: close to parking & transport

As part of a team, create a home environment for 11 Indigenous boys and 11 Indigenous girls from remote and regional communities. Provide after school, before school and overnight supervision and care in a small home-style residence. Boarding experience essential.

For a full position description and details of how to apply go to www.mits.school.org.au

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

(Casual 20Hrs/Wk) – Cairns based



- **Are you a genuine team player excited by the opportunity of a newly created and challenging professional role?**
- **Do you have the experience and attributes to work in 'the not for profit' sector and respond with enthusiasm to internal and external stakeholders?**

The Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) represents the Traditional Indigenous Owners of the Groote archipelago in Northern Australia. The ALC has a proud history of achievement for over 20 years and has a small dynamic team of Finance Professionals based in Cairns.

Due to growth, we need a Compliance Officer with the following essential attributes:

- Appropriate and relevant experience with a not for profit entity;
- Demonstrated high level competence with ORIC, CATSI and ATO legislation and reporting requirements;
- Provide compliance training to staff, members and directors.
- Superb 'team player' and communication skills in both written and oral areas who relishes working with Indigenous people and relevant stakeholders;

This is a casual (20Hrs/Wk) 12 month contract opportunity to join our team and comes with an attractive remuneration package.

To be successful in this role you will have the personal attributes to be flexible, and be able to travel to Groote Eylandt regularly.

As well, you are adept at potentially mentoring/coaching others in a collaborative/team based culture.

Applications should consist of a Cover Letter, complete current CV and a document addressing the above essential attributes.

Applications should be addressed to mwalton@alcnt.com.au by **27/11/2015**.

Indigenous cadetship program

Duties

Applications are now open for the ATO Indigenous cadetship program. The Indigenous cadetship program is a two to three year development program that combines university study with practical work placements and an offer of a guaranteed job with the ATO upon completion of your degree. The Indigenous Cadetship Program is a great way to be supported through your tertiary studies and give your career a head start. It provides practical work placements to complement your study in a flexible manner, as well as financial assistance while you complete your degree. Ultimately, this program is the first step in a great career where you know that what you do will make a difference.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration for this program, you are required to meet the requirements of the following:

- be an Australian citizen and agree to have a criminal history records check
- be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent and identify as an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- be accepted by your community as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the community in which you live or have lived
- successfully completed your first year of an undergraduate degree or double degrees in business, commerce, law, finance, accounting and/or economics at the time of application

Notes

The ATO is the government's principal revenue collection agency. We are one of the largest public service employers in Australia with a diverse workforce in terms of cultural backgrounds, demographics, skills and experience. As a forward-looking organisation, committed to innovation and continuous improvement, we value our people and the specialist skills they bring. Building the capability of our people is a top priority. Many of our employees have had full and varied careers with us. Indigenous jobseekers are encouraged to apply for this vacancy. If the job is 'Identified', then part or all of the duties impact on Indigenous Australian people and/or involve interaction with Indigenous Australian communities or their representatives. The filling of this vacancy is intended to constitute a special measure under section 8(1) of the 'Racial Discrimination Act 1975'. This vacancy is only available to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

The information you need to apply for this position is contained in the candidate information kit. You can get a copy by visiting **www.ato.gov.au/careers**

You must submit your application by Thursday 26 November 2015, 5.00pm AEDT.

More information

If you have read the candidate kit and need more information about this position, please contact Melissa Cook on (02) 6216 1935

For other opportunities available visit **www.ato.gov.au/careers**

One APS career... thousands of opportunities

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Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office



Education

Aboriginal Education and Engagement Officer SEO1 (ETS)

Temporary full-time role up to 28 January 2019
Position number and location: 174271 – Queanbeyan and Batemans Bay

Total remuneration package valued to \$128,637 p.a. (salary \$107,187 to \$116,046 p.a.) including employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.

Providing high level support and advice to educational services team and schools to assist in the implementation of strategies relating to Aboriginal education.

Notes: Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised by Section 14 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977*.

Please address selection criteria in your application. Please note that it is a requirement that all candidates submit their applications online. **No** paper based, email based or late applications will be accepted.

This is a child-related position. If you are not currently employed in a child-related position in the Department of Education, you will be required to obtain a Working with Children Check (WWCC) Clearance number as a condition of employment (if you do not already have this). For more information, visit www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check. In addition, your employment may be subject to the Department's National Criminal Records Check to determine your suitability for employment.

Note: Under new provisions for permanent teachers taking up non-school based temporary appointments; the right of return to their substantive position has been extended to up to 3 years.

Note: Recent school based experience is either direct classroom teaching within the past three years or school executive experience within the past three years. Direct classroom teaching or school executive experience is full-time service in a school based position in a departmental preschool, infants, primary, central/community, secondary, environmental education centre or special school for a continuous period of one (1) year. Further information on the rules for meeting the requirement for recent school based experience is available at: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/detresources/Recency-Rules-19October2015_hGjYniDPOm.pdf

Selection Criteria

- Aboriginality
- Teaching qualifications and recent school based experience.
- Proven skills, knowledge and/or experience in the following key priority domains as they relate to Aboriginal students:
 - Readiness for School
 - Engagement and Connections
 - Attendance
 - Literacy and Numeracy
 - Quality Teaching
 - Pathways to Real Post-School Options.
- Demonstrated high level project management experience and organisational abilities including well developed skills in the writing and preparation of reports, submissions, presentations, briefings and speeches.
- Proven ability to establish and maintain constructive relationships with a broad range of stakeholders, including Aboriginal communities and the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc.
- Demonstrated high level skills in providing professional development in the broader spectrum of Aboriginal education.
- Demonstrated commitment to the values of public education.
- Knowledge of and commitment to the Department's Aboriginal education policies.

Enquiries: Jenni Tillet, Aboriginal Education and Engagement Advisor PH: (02) 4267 6117

To apply online please visit the JobsNSW website and refer to the following keyword: 174271

Closing Date: 2 December 2015

The Department is a non-smoking workplace. The successful applicant will be expected to show commitment to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunities, Occupational Health and Safety, Cultural Diversity policies and programs and Ethical Practices.

Z07501

All Sites

Aboriginal Healthy Start to Life Worker

Permanent Full Time
Closes 29/11/2015

Ref No: 15710

For full details, please visit:
www.peninsulahealth.org.au



PENINSULA HEALTH

Winner - 2007 and 2009 Premier's Award -
Metropolitan Health Service of the Year



National Aboriginal Engagement Manager

Northern Australia
Full time Fixed term of 3 years

The National Aboriginal Engagement Manager will oversee further development of Bush Heritage's Aboriginal Partnerships and Engagement program. This role will lead the development and deepening of relationships with Aboriginal leaders and organisations, Government, businesses and NGO networks that have an interest in Aboriginal land management and conservation programs.

Further information regarding this opportunity is available at: bushheritage.org.au/get-involved/employment

Applications Close: 30 November 2015

KURRANULLA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



ABORIGINAL ABILITY LINKER FULL TIME

Kurrannya Aboriginal Corporation is looking to recruit for the role of Aboriginal Ability Linker.

Location: Metro South / South Eastern Sydney

Salary: As per award - Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010 (level 4). A generous remuneration package plus superannuation, leave loading and including a generous salary sacrificing arrangement will be negotiated.

The role: Ability Links NSW (ALNSW) is the NSW approach to local area coordination for people with disabilities, their families and carers. The 'Linker' will assist them in planning for the future, building on their strengths and skills and engaging in community and activities.

About you:

- The position is an identified Aboriginal position. Aboriginality is a genuine qualification authorised under Section 14(d) of the Anti-Discrimination ACT 1977
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate ability to work with limited supervision and manage a variety of tasks and display initiative, flexibility and integrity.
- Monitor progress, prepare recommendations and complete monthly reporting of activities undertaken and outcomes achieved as required.
- Have an understanding and awareness of people with disabilities
- Approved and current NSW Working with Children check , Drivers licence and Police check

For a copy of position description and key selection criteria please contact Louise Durmush on (02) 9528-0287 or email manager@kurrannya.org.au

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 27th November, 2015

Indigenous Traineeship

An exciting opportunity for an Indigenous person to begin a career in Natural Resource Management is now available with the Mallee Catchment Management Authority.

A 15-month Indigenous Traineeship will commence in early 2016, with the successful applicant gaining valuable experience and knowledge in environmental management, cultural heritage and Indigenous engagement, while also gaining a Certificate II or III in Conservation and Land Management.

The Indigenous Trainee will play a key role in supporting the Mallee CMA's Indigenous Engagement team and have the opportunity to work across all areas of the organisation in order to gain a wide breadth of experience.

A position description is available from www.malleecma.vic.gov.au/jobs-tenders; by contacting Jenny Byrnes on (03) 5051 4371; or by e-mailing admin@malleecma.com.au.

Applicants must address the Key Selection Criteria contained within the position description.

Applications should be marked "Confidential – Jenny Byrnes, Human Resources Officer" and submitted to the undersigned by **27 November, 2015**.

Jenny Byrnes
Human Resources Officer
P O Box 5017
Mildura Vic 3502
admin@malleecma.com.au



20152522

Wingara Mura Leadership Program



Expressions of Interest – Academic & Professional Staff

Closing date: 29 November 2015



For more information and to submit your expression of interest, please visit sydney.edu.au/recruitment/wingara-mura

The University of Sydney has embraced an ambitious vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and opportunity. Our recently established Wingara Mura Leadership Program aims to develop careers by offering employment and attractive career support pathways in two streams: the Academic staff stream and the Professional staff stream.

The program will offer employment opportunities across the University's many faculties and centres, designed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early career academics and developing professionals, as part of an individualised career development program.

As part of our continuous commitment to you, all successful candidates will be supported by a workplace sponsor throughout their participation in the Wingara Mura Leadership Program.

Join us on this journey.

Aboriginal Community Development Coordinator Wesley LifeForce Suicide Prevention Program



- build community networks at the coal face
- Ashfield (Sydney) based but with extensive interstate travel
- have a direct impact on saving lives in remote communities

The Wesley LifeForce Suicide Prevention Networks project is an exciting initiative which focuses on supporting suicide prevention activities through a collaborative and strategic community approach. We are currently expanding this initiative nationally through additional government support.

This role is all about getting out into the community establishing and building networks of committed local people who care about preventing suicide.

Through your initiative, force of personality, and passion, you will build relationships, facilitate meetings and support the implementation of local activities to help prevent suicide in locations across Australia.

You may have previous experience in understanding rural communities, community development or engagement programs, social work or public health.

Essential Criteria

- excellent verbal and written communication skills
- effective report writing skills
- a proven ability to identify and develop effective relationships with key stakeholders
- experience in developing and implementing project plans
- excellent organisational skills
- an understanding of group processes
- experience in facilitating meetings
- a current Driver's Licence

Desirable Criteria

- an understanding of issues facing rural and remote communities
- cultural awareness and sensitivity

Frequent interstate travel is a requirement of this position.

Benefits of working at Wesley Mission

- free Employee Support Program
- access to discounted Health and Travel Insurance
- career growth and training opportunities in a valuable sector
- attractive tax saving salary packaging, sacrifice up to \$16,050 of your yearly income

Remuneration

Remuneration is in accordance with the Social Community and Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010; Level 5 (\$65,168 pa).

Closing date: Cofa^vY-qe November 2015

The suitable applicant will be subject to the relevant pre-employment checks for appointment to positions within Wesley Mission. Wesley Mission is a Christian organisation requiring all staff to affirm its values. Indigenous People are encouraged to apply.

Apply now

For further information about this role, please contact Jamilla Rogers.

To apply please send your application addressing the selection criteria, a completed Application for Employment form and current resume to Jamilla Rogers.

To enquire and submit an application, please contact us.

Jamilla Rogers Ph: 1800 100 024

Email: lifeforcenetworks@wesleymission.org.au



Be Challenged: Change Lives



Koori Services Coordinator Children's Court of Victoria Reference Number MC2453

- Excellent opportunity within the Children's Court of Victoria
- VPS Grade 5, Fixed term for 12 months
- Based at Broadmeadows Children's Court

The Children's Court of Victoria operates under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* as a specialist children's court dealing principally with matters concerning child protection and criminal offending by children.

An exciting, newly-created opportunity exists for a Koori Services Coordinator.

Reporting to the Manager, Programs and Service Coordination, the Koori Services Coordinator wil be the first point of contact for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families appearing at the Broadmeadows Children's Court. The role will improve the court experience for Koori families involved in child protection proceedings by providing culturally appropriate information and support. The Koori Services Coordinator will develop policies and practices to enhance management of Koori cases through the court process.

Whilst the Koori Services Coordinator is based at the Broadmeadows Children's Court, the role will provide a statewide advice and support services all the Children's Court locations.

A Victorian Driver's Licence is required.

This is an Aboriginal Designated Position, classified under 'special measures' of Section 12 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. Only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply

Applications close Sunday 29 November 2015

For further information please contat Elisa Buggy - Manager, Programs and Service Coordination on (03) 9993 4954

ACADEMIC ROLE - INDIGENOUS SPECIALISATION

RMIT is a global university of technology and design, focused on creating solutions that transform the future for the benefit of people and their environments.

LECTURER / SENIOR LECTURER / ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

- School of Global, Urban and Social Studies
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander designated position
- Based at the City Campus
- Full Time, Continuing position, Commencing early 2016
- Attractive Salary +17% Super

Are you seeking an exciting challenge within a dynamic educational environment?

This is an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander designated position, classified under "special measures" of section 12 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. The occupant must be of Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander descent.

To view a Position Description and to apply please visit our website at yourcareer.edu.au using the Jobref#551220. For further information please contact Associate Professor John Whyte, Deputy Dean, Policy, Practice and Social Innovation at (03) 9925 1079 or john.whyte@rmit.edu.au. Applications should address the key selection criteria outlined in the position description and include your current curriculum vitae.

Note: Level of appointment is flexibly depending upon qualifications and experience.

Applications close: 23 November 2015

www.rmit.edu.au/yourcareer

Z05303650



Senior Project Officer

Clerk Grade 9/10, Strategic Projects Division (Aboriginal Unit)

The role of the Senior Project Officer is to: Undertake and co-ordinate projects, audits, research or reviews aimed at improving service delivery to Aboriginal people; Identify systemic issues for further project, review or investigative action; Handle a caseload of complaints related to issues impacting on Aboriginal people and communities.

This role is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants only. The NSW Ombudsman considers that being Aboriginal is a genuine occupational qualification under section 14 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)*.

Salary Range: \$100,330 pa to \$110,560 pa – total remuneration package up to \$122,546 (package includes salary, employer superannuation and annual leave loading).

How to apply:

Only applications that are submitted through www.jobs.nsw.gov.au will be accepted. The Job Reference/ID for this job is 000042QV.

- Online applications must consist of:
 - o covering letter and resume highlighting your claims for the role
 - o response to the targeted questions provided in the online advertisement
 - o response to the job knowledge test provided in the online advertisement
- The assessment process will be conducted by a standard panel assessment process.
- One ongoing role is currently available.
- A talent pool may be created for future temporary and/or ongoing employment.
- Short listed candidates will be subject to security and other vetting processes.
- Late applications will not be accepted.

Closing Date: Tuesday 24 November 2015

Enquiries: Shelagh Doyle (02) 9286 1050

Z07549

Department of Justice and Regulation

Sheriff's Aboriginal Liaison Officer



- Make a difference in the Koori community
- Ongoing, full-time position based in Ringwood
- Salary range \$60,551 - \$73,521 plus superannuation

A great opportunity exists for a motivated individual with a keen interest in Aboriginal welfare to join our team in this fantastic role.

Working across Melbourne's South East Metropolitan Region and the Gippsland Region, in this role, you will assist in establishing and coordinating services to help Koori community members address their outstanding infringement obligations. You will participate in community building and engagement activities to enhance the rights and responsibilities of Koori community members. You will also manage complex issues and develop the community's awareness towards Sheriff's duties.

As our ideal candidate, you will have:

- a proven knowledge and understanding of the Koori community and the issues affecting it
- the ability to communicate sensitively with Koori community members
- excellent interpersonal and report writing skills.

For further information on this position and to submit your application, please visit careers.vic.gov.au by Monday 30 November 2015.

This is an Aboriginal Designated Position, classified under 'special measures' of section 12 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. Only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.

Lake Victoria is located north of the River Murray in NSW, approximately 100 km north east of Renmark and 80 km west of Wentworth. Due to the remoteness of this location, you will be required to live onsite in accommodation provided by SA Water. Nearest shopping, medical and educational facilities are at Renmark and Wentworth. Applicants are strongly encouraged to visit Lake Victoria prior to sending in an application.

Cultural Heritage & Land Management Assistant x 2 (12 month contract)

Assistant positions are available at our Lake Victoria Storage (LVS) location, based within our River Murray Operations group. Lake Victoria is an important cultural heritage site for the Aboriginal community. As an Assistant you will contribute to ensuring the protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage within the Lake Victoria area including land management activities. As an Assistant you will also assist in the maintenance of properties adjacent to Lake Victoria, assist with general operations and maintenance at LVS, and other Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) facilities or assets, and assist in the monitoring and reporting on water quality in the LVS.

The successful applicants will undertake Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management and any other training as determined by SA Water. Current manual driver's licence and own transport is essential.

For any enquiries please contact Shane Blogg on 08 7424 1137.

For a position description and to apply go to <http://careers.sawater.com.au> and upload a copy of your application by no later than 2nd December 2015.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply

SA Water values diversity and supports people with family responsibilities.

EA0719



Health

Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network

Manager Aboriginal Health

Classification: Health Manager Level 4

Location: Sydney, Malabar

Employment Status: Permanent Full-Time

Base Salary: \$115,404 – \$138,074 pa

Enquiries: Geraldine Baillet, (02) 9700 3002

Email: geraldine.baillet@justicehealth.nsw.gov.au

eRecruit Reference Number: 286409

Closing Date: 13 December 2015

Selection Criteria:

1. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent – authorised under section 14 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act (NSW) 1977*.
2. Tertiary qualification in Management, Aboriginal Leadership, Health, Social Science or criminal justice, or equivalent work experience.
3. Extensive knowledge and demonstrated understanding of Aboriginal emotional and social wellbeing and of underlying determinants of Aboriginal Health, particularly in relation to the criminal justice field.
4. Demonstrated excellent interpersonal skills and ability to consult and negotiate with internal and external stakeholders at all levels to build positive relationships.
5. Extensive experience in high level written communication including the ability to produce strategic documents and reports.
6. Extensive experience in strategic planning with a proven record of achievement.
7. Demonstrated experience in managing simultaneous complex projects within agreed timeframes.
8. Extensive experience in the management of human, financial and physical resources to ensure budget and performance targets are achieved.

To apply for this position please visit nswhealth.erecruit.com.au

Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network is committed to Work Health & Safety, Equal Employment, Ethical Practices, and the Principles of Cultural Diversity, Personal criminal records checks will be conducted. Prohibited persons as declared under the *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998* are not eligible to apply for child-related employment.

Z07271

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY

CREATIVE PRODUCER

North Melbourne, Victoria

ILBIJERRI is Australia's leading and longest running Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Theatre Company. The Creative Producer plays a vital role in the creation, development and delivery of our diverse program of new work and touring projects.

For more information visit ilbijerri.com.au/job/creative-producer

Applications close 5pm,
Wednesday 2 December 2015

BERRY STREET TAKE TWO

Healing Childhood Trauma

Community Wellbeing Practitioner (Senior Clinician)

- 0.8 based in Bairnsdale
- Fixed term until June 2017
- Excellent opportunities for Salary Packaging
- Full private use of a vehicle included in the package

Take Two, a program of Berry Street, is a state-wide service that provides high quality therapeutic services to children and young people who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, significant abuse or neglect. We are seeking a Senior Clinician for a newly created position within the Take Two Aboriginal Team, in partnership with Uniting Care Gippsland (UCG) Communities for Children (CfC) program.

This new position aims to provide a prevention and early intervention service to support and promote the emotional wellbeing of children and families in East Gippsland, with a particular focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

For more information about this role or to see our other vacancies please visit our web site: www.berrystreet.org.au
Applications close 27 November 2015

www.berrystreet.org.au



I can influence positive changes towards the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in South Australia. My cultural knowledge and life experience will help to break down barriers and improve an understanding of the challenges facing Aboriginal people. At SA Health, my career is varied and diverse, enabling me to do truly meaningful and interesting work.

Social Worker

Women's & Children's Health Network
Metropolitan Youth Health
Christies Beach
Job Ref: 575015

Registered Nurse Morier Ward NHS

Noarlunga Hospital
Job Ref: 575617

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/careers
1300 882 992



Blaze 080910



Justice

Youth Justice Conference Convenor Juvenile Justice NSW

- Casual Role
- Conference Convenors will be contracted for each conference and paid at an hourly rate of \$43.51

Primary Purpose of the role:

The Conference Convenor is a statutory appointee responsible for the preparation and facilitation of youth justice conferences in local communities with offenders, victims, support people, police and others affected by the offence.

Applying for the role: To apply for this role you need to submit an application online via www.jobs.nsw.gov.au

Job Reference Number: 0000322U

Closing Date: Sunday, 29 November 2015 (11.59pm)

A Working With Children Check is a prerequisite for this position.

Contacts:

Tweed Heads, Lismore and Grafton

– Jodie.Scott@djj.nsw.gov.au

Maitland and Muswellbrook

– David.Lowe@djj.nsw.gov.au

Armidale, Moree and Glen Innes

– Alexandra.Moar@djj.nsw.gov.au

Taree and Kempsey

– Tracy.Foley@djj.nsw.gov.au

207506



Justice
Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Justice Caseworker – Aboriginal Identified

Clerk Grade 6/7
Temporary Full-Time

Position No: 000041CT

Successful applicants may be included in a talent pool for temporary roles in Lismore and Grafton.

Salary range \$83,022 pa – \$90,646 pa, plus employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.

Role Description:

Front line delivery functions of a community office, providing a quality range of externally and internally sourced services to youth justice conferencing clients, victims of crime, court mandated young people and their families, as part of a multi-disciplined team.

The primary focus is to reduce re-offending of young people and enhance their functioning and reintegration into their families and the community.

Aboriginal Identified, "An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and authorised by Section 14(d) of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*."

To apply, please visit jobs.nsw.gov.au

Reference: 000041CT

Enquiries: Jodie Scott on (02) 6643 5674

Closing date: Sunday 22 November 2015

207293

FINANCE OFFICER Cairns based

• *Are you a genuine team player excited by the opportunity of a newly created and challenging professional role?*

• *Do you have the experience and attributes to work in 'the not for profit' sector and respond with enthusiasm to internal and external stakeholders?*

The Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) represents the Traditional Indigenous Owners of the Groote archipelago in Northern Australia. The ALC has a proud history of achievement for over 20 years and has a small dynamic team of Finance Professionals based in Cairns.

Due to growth, we need a Finance Officer with the following essential attributes:

- Accounting/Commerce tertiary qualifications;
- Minimum 3 years demonstrated experience with all aspects of the finance operations of a not for profit entity;
- Demonstrated high level competence with not for profit audit and legislative reporting;
- Demonstrated high level competence using MYOB accounting software and Microsoft Office suite as well as other computing skills as necessary;
- Superb 'team player' and communication skills in both written and oral areas who relishes working with Indigenous people and relevant stakeholders;

This is a 12 month contract position to join our team and comes with an attractive remuneration package and reports direct to the Chief Financial Officer.

To be successful in this role you will have the personal attributes to be flexible, and be able to travel to Groote Eylandt when required.

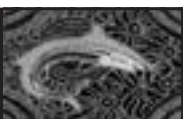
As well, you are adept at potentially mentoring/coaching others in a collaborative/team based culture.

Applications should consist of a Cover Letter, complete current CV and a document addressing the above essential attributes.

Applications should be addressed to mwalton@alcnt.com.au by 27/11/2015.



Purfleet Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council (PTLALC)



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) (Identified Position)

The Purfleet Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council (PTLALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in undertaking the role of CEO.

Applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the Position Description and selection criteria. Applicants are required to meet and address the selection criteria.

This position will be 5 days per week (35 Hours). Remuneration up to \$74k (plus superannuation, salary sacrifice options, private use of vehicle), depending on skills, qualifications and experience.

To obtain a recruitment package for the above position please contact the Contact Officer – Wes Fernando on (02) 6659 1204 or email wesley.fernando@alc.org.au

Aboriginal people are strongly encouraged to apply.

Applications marked "**Confidential**" and posted to:

Contact Officer: Wes Fernando
PO Box 1912, Coffs Harbour NSW 2428

Applications close: 10 December 2015

Senior Manager – Services & Community Development

- Based in Canberra
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander applicants strongly encouraged to apply

The role

You will be responsible for providing opportunities to enhance outcomes for young people, families and communities and mobilise a humanitarian movement to promote a culture of peace and non-violence.

About you

Your previous experience in community development, preferably in child, youth and families, and significant high level management experience in the community services sector will ensure your success in this role. You will have demonstrated knowledge of the statutory requirements relevant to community welfare service delivery and a proven track record in people management, Program development and training.

For further information, please contact Wenda Donaldson on (02) 6234 7601.

To apply visit redcross.org.au and search job # 501944

**Applications close at 11:55pm
AEDT on 29/11/15**



Careers with Queensland Health

The Department of Health is responsible for the overall management of the public health system in Queensland. We strongly believe in the need to work with people who value the goals of our organisation and who will thrive in our workplace.

Manager, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Branch

Permanent Full-Time Position (A08)

- Based in Brisbane CBD
- \$111,550 - \$117,955 per annum plus super
- Job Ref No: QLD/SPP194646

You will lead Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health policy, program development and an investment strategy that is evidenced based and consistent with relevant national and State policy directions, using a project management approach.

Principal Policy & Planning Officer, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Branch

Permanent Full-Time Position (A07)

- Based in Brisbane CBD
- \$100,702 - \$107,955 per annum plus super
- Job Ref No: QLD/SPP194647

You will provide advice to senior management on issues relating to the planning, delivery, performance and monitoring of investment in health initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which includes managing programs and projects associated with the Queensland Government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health budget aimed at improving Indigenous health outcomes.

How to Apply

To apply for the role and to obtain the position description, visit www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au or contact Di Maurer on (07) 3006 2863. Applications Close: 2nd December 2015

The Department of Health encourages applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

You can apply online at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job.
A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.



Blaze0081013

Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation (IAC)

Housing Officer \$63k Package (4 days per week)

The IAC is seeking a dynamic and highly driven Housing Officer to manage our growing portfolio of rental properties. Fixed Term to 30 June 2017

The Role:

- Manage our property portfolio
- Manage and organise inspections, responsive and planned maintenance
- Manage tenancy commencements, tenancy issues and rental arrears
- Organise regular tenancy forums and other forms of communication
- Implement and communicate changing policies as we move to Nat Reg Code

The Successful Applicant will have:

- Qualifications and/or experience in Aboriginal Social Housing or a related field
- Good organisational skills
- Excellent communication skills

The IAC offers:

- A competitive negotiable salary (based on Level 5 MASACs Award 2010)
- Tax Free Salary Sacrifice benefits
- Mobile Phone
- Package approx \$63k inc Super & Loading

Applications:

- Aboriginal identified position authorised under S14d of the NSW Anti Discrimination Act 1977
- Application pack at www.iac.org.au
- Call Warrigal Employment on 4276 1878 if you need assistance
- Closes 4pm – Friday 27 November 2015

Department of Justice and Regulation

Aboriginal Community Corrections Officer



- **Make a difference in the Koori community**
- **Fixed term, part time position based in Broadmeadows**
- **Salary range \$60,551 - \$69,630 plus superannuation (pro rata)**

As an Aboriginal Community Corrections Officer, you will undertake general Community Correctional Services responsibilities as well as specialist functions. These include providing culturally appropriate guidance and counselling to offenders and assisting offenders to participate in programs and community work. This is done by developing strong links with Aboriginal agencies to provide meaningful and safe placements that assist offenders to successfully complete this part of their order.

As our ideal candidate, you will have:

- an understanding of the Koori community, with proven ability to communicate sensitively and effectively with its members
- excellent problem solving, influencing and written communication skills, with a keen eye for detail
- experience in case management and report writing

For further information on this position and to submit your application, please visit correctionsjobs.vic.gov.au by 5pm, Monday 30 November 2015.

This is an Aboriginal Identified Position. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

Z0561054



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- **Highly regarded specialist agency**
- **Statutory appointment**
- **Attractive remuneration package**
- **Canberra based**

Are you looking to make a difference and have experience in fostering international collaborative research partnerships that span both government and industry? The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) looks to a world where poverty has been reduced and the livelihoods of many improved through more productive and sustainable agriculture emerging from collaborative international research. ACIAR is a specialist government agency where your leadership can have wide reaching international impact.

ACIAR's diverse, high quality program of collaborative research, development and training, focused on the Indo-Pacific region, contributes to the goals of the Australian aid program and cultivates Australia's research strengths. ACIAR's program is developed and implemented in close collaboration with relevant Australian government agencies, especially the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, overseas and Australian research partners.

Reporting to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the CEO leads and manages this collaborative learning organisation in:

- fostering effective agricultural research partnerships between government and industry that improve productivity, livelihoods and food security;
- formulating agricultural research policies and programs focused on developing countries;
- commissioning research nationally and internationally that can meaningfully influence improvements in agriculture; and
- establishing and funding research-related training schemes.

The CEO also advises the ACIAR Commission and Policy Advisory Council, represents Australia internationally and works closely with a wide range of national and international stakeholders.

To obtain a candidate information pack and details on how to apply, please contact Moiya Ford at Ford Kelly Executive Connection by email: moiya.ford@fordkelly.com.au, quoting reference 15/279.

Applications close on Thursday 3 December 2015.

GT18518A



kirrip
Aboriginal Corporation:
Founded by Friendship
Inspired by Community



Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation

Program Officer

**Salary \$74,303 to \$80,913 pa + 9.5% Super + RDO
Full Time (12 month contract)**

An opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic person to assume the role of Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation Program Officer in one of the fastest growing regions in Australia.

As a member of the Community Capacity team you will be part of an exciting service that supports activities to promote diversity and connection and build a more inclusive, engaged and self reliant community.

This challenging role will require a highly motivated and enthusiastic team player who will play a key role in developing Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation's capacity, including:

- Support the development of the Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation as the governance group for Kirrip Aboriginal Community Hub to ensure better access to services for the Aboriginal community in Melton.
- Apply a broad range of community development principles and practices to develop and build upon the capacity of the Aboriginal community in Melton through Kirrip Aboriginal Community Hub.
- Facilitate dynamic and effective partnerships and programs to strengthen the community's capacity to formulate their own solutions to issues and creates pride, local confidence and community identity.
- Develop local leadership, confidence, community spirit, commitment and capacity amongst volunteers, community groups/individuals to enable them to develop, coordinate and implement community activities, programs and services.

For further information contact: Jessica Trijsburg on (03) 9747 7238.

All applicants must address the key selection criteria contained in the Position Description available from Council's web-site at www.melton.vic.gov.au

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

Applications close 5.00pm, Thursday 3 December 2015.

Applications for this position will be reviewed by a panel comprising representatives from Melton City Council, Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation and Department of Health and Human Services.

Visit www.melton.currentjobs.com.au for further information, the position description and how to apply.

Department of Justice and Regulation

Great career opportunities within the Koori Justice Unit



The Koori Justice Unit (KJU), within the Department of Justice and Regulation, is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA) across the Victorian Government and justice system.

A number of fantastic full time and part time opportunities are now available for enthusiastic and motivated individuals to join the team based in Melbourne CBD.

Senior Policy Lead, Policy Coordination

- *Salary range \$86,493 - \$104,650 plus superannuation (pro rata)*
- *12 month fixed term, part time (3 days per week) opportunity*

Reporting to the Manager - Policy Coordination, the Senior Policy Lead will provide policy advice to support the implementation and monitoring of the third phase of the AJA. You will support the department's contribution to whole of government policy frameworks in Aboriginal Affairs as well as provide policy support to the Indigenous reform agenda.

Senior Grants Lead, Community Programs

- *Salary range \$86,493 - \$104,650 plus superannuation*
- *Ongoing, full time opportunity*

In this role you will work independently to implement, manage and monitor community funded programs to ensure compliance with contract specifications and timelines. You will also provide high level contract and tendering process management to support the delivery of Koori initiatives.

Practice and Process Improvements Lead

- *Salary range \$86,493 - \$104,650 plus superannuation*
- *12 month fixed term, full time opportunity*

As the Practice and Process Improvement Lead, you will be responsible for identifying business improvement opportunities and developing and implementing change projects to continually improve the way business is conducted within and by the KJU. You will manage and lead business improvement projects from end to end and promote a continuous improvement culture across the KJU.

Executive Assistant and Events Coordinator

- *Salary range \$74,962 - \$85,052 plus superannuation*
- *Ongoing, full time opportunity*

As the Executive Assistant and Events Coordinator, you will be responsible for delivering specialist executive and administrative support to the Director of the KJU and work with the Stakeholder Engagement team to provide high-level support in the management, planning and coordination of KJU events.

Project Support Officer, Stakeholder Engagement

- *Salary range \$60,551 - \$73,521 plus superannuation*
- *12 month fixed term opportunity*

As the Project Support Officer, you will be responsible for providing administration and project support across all teams in the KJU. You will monitor and maintain the stakeholder database and develop and manage production of internal documentation for events.

For further information on these positions and to submit your application, please visit careers.vic.gov.au by 29 November 2015.

All positions are Aboriginal Identified Positions. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

CAREERS AT CSU

Indigenous Employment Coordinator

- **Full Time - 12 months maternity leave (fixed term - commencing January 2016)**
- **Level 7 - \$77,257 - \$84,500 per annum (plus Superannuation)**
- **Can be located at: Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst, Dubbo, Orange, Port Macquarie or Wagga**

Responsible for developing, promoting, implementing and evaluating the University's Indigenous Australian employment Strategy and providing advice and guidance in relation to the attraction, retention and development of Indigenous Australian staff.

This is an identified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander position under section 14 of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977

For further information, please contact
Hedy Bryant, hbryant@csu.edu.au or (02) 6338 4555
Applications close: 30 November 2015

www.csu.edu.au/jobs



Health

Justice Health &
Forensic Mental Health Network

Community Integration Team Clinician (HM1) Aboriginal Identified TFT up to 30/06/2018

Classification: Health Mgr Lvl 1

Location: Tamworth

Employment Status: Temporary Full-Time (up to 30/06/2018)

Salary: \$67,408.00 – \$90,676.00 pa

Enquiries: Jeanette Toole, 0408 163 583

Email: Jeanette.Toole@justicehealth.nsw.gov.au

Reference No: 289041

Closing Date: 23 November 2015

To apply for this position please visit nswhealth.erecruit.com.au

Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network is committed to Work Health & Safety, Equal Employment, Ethical Practices, and the Principles of Cultural Diversity. Personal criminal records checks will be conducted. Prohibited persons as declared under the *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998* are not eligible to apply for child-related employment.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

Recruitment

CQI Coordinator Albury Wodonga

Our client is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation providing first class Primary Health Care Services to the Aboriginal community who reside in Albury / Wodonga and surrounding areas.

A newly created position of Continuous Quality Improvement Coordinator has now been approved to assist the organisation improve systems and processes and facilitate the development of a culture of continuous quality improvement and the requirements for achieving them. This support will be for accreditation, governance and policy; working collaboratively with health service managers, practitioners and other stakeholders to develop implement and evaluate CQI Operational Plans which guide the work of the health service delivery areas.

The position also undertakes a significant staff training role to support clinical best practice and maintain consistency and quality.

The person in this position will be enthusiastic, knowledgeable and able to provide leadership to health service staff on quality.

Position Requirements:

- Relevant tertiary qualification and/or training in Quality Management
- Experience in the implementation and management of a quality framework
- Ability to enhance systems and procedures to create organisational improvements
- Experience in the development of a culture of excellence and continuous quality improvement within a community based organisation
- High level problem solving and analytical skills including the ability to obtain and interpret complex information
- Ability to communicate effectively with the local Aboriginal community
- Current Driver's License

This is a full time contract until June 2018, and remuneration level is between \$65,000 and \$75,000. *Aboriginal Applicants are encouraged to apply.*

Closing Date is 25th November 2015.

Email your enquiries or application to admin@mppersonnel.com.au

Ph (02) 60416286

mp personnel and training



CAREERS

CAREERS @ COUNCIL

Working for Council is a stimulating and rewarding career option, providing the opportunity to be part of a team contributing to shaping the success and future of our Region.

Current career opportunities are:

- **CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES TRAINEE (12 MTH FIXED TERM CONTRACT)**
- **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLANNER**
- **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR (2 x PART TIME POSITIONS)**

Please visit www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/careers for further information and to apply.

Legal Aid NEW SOUTH WALES

FIELD OFFICER – NOWRA OFFICE Aboriginal Identified

- Package up to \$79k (Clerk Grade 3/4)
- Temporary role until June 2016
- Possible extension till June 2017

We are looking for an enthusiastic team player to assist legal officers and administrative staff to help develop, coordinate, facilitate and implement outreach services and community legal education sessions with Aboriginal communities.

Apply Online: www.jobs.nsw.gov.au

Jobs NSW Ref. No. 000041OR

Closing Date: Monday, 30 November 2015

Enquiries: Janelle Clarke on (02) 9219 5146



Justice

Juvenile Justice

Youth Officer Juvenile Justice NSW

- **Ongoing Full-Time, Temporary and Casual vacancies available**
- **Location: Wagga Wagga – Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre, Dubbo – Orana Juvenile Justice Centre, Grafton – Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre**
- **Grade: Youth Officer, Salary \$28 per hour, plus casual loading, shift allowances and/or penalty rates as applicable.**

Primary Purpose of the Position: The Youth Officer works as part of a team to provide care and constant supervision to detainees in NSW Juvenile Justice (Detention) Centres in accordance with relevant legislation, policies and procedures.

The *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012* requires persons engaged in children related work to have Working with Children clearances.

Applying for the role:

To apply for this role you need to submit an application to the relevant job location reference online via www.jobs.nsw.gov.au

Job Reference Number: 0000427B (Wagga Wagga), 0000427Y (Dubbo), 000042QT (Grafton)

Closing Date: Sunday, 29 November 2015 (11:59pm)

Contact: The Recruitment Team 1800 355 562



Health

Western Sydney
Local Health District

Aboriginal Immunisation Liaison Officer

Classification: Aboriginal Health Education Officer Graduate/Non Graduate

Location: Cumberland

Employment Status: Permanent Full-Time

Salary: \$49,121 – \$92,226 pa

Enquiries: Christine Newman, (02) 9840 3717

Email: Christine.Newman@health.nsw.gov.au

Reference No: 280818

Closing Date: 27 November 2015

Aboriginal Complex, Aged & Chronic Care Community Nurse

Classification: Registered Nurse

Location: Blacktown/Mount Druitt

Employment Status: Permanent Full-Time

Salary: \$58,142 - \$81,649 pa

Enquiries: Margaret Cunha (02) 9881 8700

Email: margaret.cunha@health.nsw.gov.au

Reference No: 284222

Closing Date: 29 November 2015

**Please apply online by visiting:
nswhealth.erecruit.com.au**

NSW Health Service: employer of choice



Housing Plus is a growing and progressive organisation. We are currently enhancing our service delivery across Central West NSW and require skilled and passionate individuals to complement our professional and outcomes driven team.

Housing Plus provides opportunity for individuals experiencing housing stress, homelessness, or domestic violence to overcome barriers and move forward with their lives. Our purpose is to achieve healthy, engaged and vibrant communities; in which individuals enjoy opportunities to thrive and build a promising future for their children.

We currently have the following vacant positions;

Homelessness Caseworker (Aboriginal Identified) based in our Orange Office

Is responsible for the provision of tailored case management for adults and families with and without children, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Our case management is delivered in accordance with the Specialist Homelessness Services Practice Guidelines and includes; early intervention, crisis and supported accommodation, immediate interventions, support to clients experiencing domestic and / or family violence and post crisis. *(This is an identified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander position under Section 14 of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977 (NSW). Housing Plus considers that being an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a genuine occupational qualification under s14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).)*

For more information: Please go to our website; <http://housingplus.prevueaps.com/jobs/> to view the information package for this position or phone our Executive Assistant on 02 6360 3433 to discuss the roles further.



EASTERN ZONE GUJAGA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION Gujaga Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Service (MACS)

Expression of Interest

Early Childhood Teacher Diploma Trained Educator Certificate III Educators x2

Expressions of Interests are invited for the above positions at Gujaga MACS Long Day Care Centre at La Perouse.

Successful applicants will be working with children aged 0-5yrs.

- Possession of a Bachelor of Early Childhood, Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care, Certificate III in Child Studies, and/or a current First Aid Certificate will be an advantage.
- These positions cover a 38hr week with award wages and conditions.
- Experience working in a childcare environment is essential criteria for this position.

Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised by Section 14 (d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977.

This position will be subject to the Working With Children Check under the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998.

All applicants must obtain a copy of a recruitment package containing Role Description and Selection Criteria for the respective position, call Shannon Williams, General Manager, Eastern Zone Gujaga Aboriginal Corporation on (02) 9661 6097 or email: gujagamacs@bigpond.com

Closing date for EOI are:

Early Childhood Teacher and Diploma trained
COB: Monday 23 November 2015

Certificate III Educators
COB: Monday 7 December 2015



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

Aboriginal Health Education Officer

The Sutherland Hospital, Various Locations
Permanent Full-Time/Permanent Part-Time
Enquiries: Rebecca Smith – 0458 709 440
Ref No: 282569

Closing Date: 19 November 2015

Apply online at:
nswhealth.erecruit.com.au
or email application quoting Ref. No. to:
seslhd.recruitment@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au
or send application to:
Recruitment Unit,
Ground Floor Admin Building No. 2
Prince of Wales Hospital
Randwick NSW 2031

NSW Health Service: employer of choice



Health
South Western Sydney
Local Health District

Female Aboriginal Health Worker (Aboriginal HEO) – Child and Family Health

Ref: 284576 – Perm P/T 18hpw at Community
Health Services, Narellan

Salary: \$28.53 – \$42.25 ph

Enquiries: Erika Lehner, (02) 4640 3500

Closing Date: 2 December 2015

Aboriginality/Torres Strait Islander is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under section 14(d) of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

Being female is recognised as a genuine occupation qualification and is authorised under section 31(2h) of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

Please apply online by visiting:
nswhealth.erecruit.com.au

NSW Health Service: employer of choice



*Are you passionate about making a difference in
the lives of vulnerable children?*

We are looking for two workers:

Men's Worker

**Part time - 30 hrs pw Grade 4 SCHADS award
(with over-award conditions) until June 2017.**

An experienced Aboriginal man to work with the fathers of Aboriginal children in group & individual family settings.

Employment of an Aboriginal man in this position is authorised in accordance with parts 14 & 31 of the Anti-Discrimination Act (1977).

Family Worker

**Part time permanent - 10 hrs pw Grade 4 SCHADS award
(with over-award conditions)**

An experienced person to work with parents & pre-school children in group and individual family settings.

Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply for this position. FSN is an EEO employer.

Full details including selection criteria are provided in information packs at www.nfss.org.au or call (02) 4926 3577.

Closing Date:
9am, 30th November 2015

Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation (IAC)

Trainee Case Worker

**Going Home Staying Home
\$55k Package**

The Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation is seeking an enthusiastic trainee Case Worker to join our Going Home Staying Home team. The position is currently for a fixed term until 30 June 2016 however there is good potential to transition into a role in our general Housing program.

The Role:

- Work with the Manager and Case Workers to assess client needs and to develop and implement appropriate case plans for people that are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Assist case workers with "back office" functions such as database entry and monthly reporting.

The Successful Applicant will:

- Have initiative, compassion and good communication skills (including very good computer skills)
- Be studying towards Cert IV in Community Services Work or willing to commence study within 3 months of employment

The IAC offers:

- Above Award Training Wage
- Tax Free Salary Sacrifice benefits
- Package approx \$55k inc Super

Applications:

- Aboriginal identified position authorised under S14d of the NSW Anti Discrimination Act 1977
- Application pack at www.iac.org.au
- Call Warrigal Employment on 4276 1878 if you need assistance
- **Closes 4pm – Friday 27 November 2015**



ABORIGINAL ACCESS WORKER



**We are looking for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander to
improve the way we work with the aboriginal community
and to help them get the services they need.**

Part time - 3 days a week (Full Time Negotiable)

What you will bring to this role:

- Excellent communication and relationship building skills
- Understand the issues experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Be connected to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the western suburbs of Melbourne
- Experience working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to improve health, community connectedness and wellbeing.

Tell us if you are interested

call Meagan Chiuchirelli (03) 8368 3008.
or visit our website to view the Position
Description www.isispc.com.au/careers

**Applications close Monday 7th
December 2015.**

Job reference number: 3170

*This position is exempt from the provisions of
the Equal Opportunity Act 1995
Application Number A178/2010*



Aboriginal Foster & Kin Care Case Manager

Barnardos Orange Children's Family Centre is looking to appoint an Aboriginal Case Manager to their Aboriginal Foster Care Program based in Cowra. The successful person will work with foster carers and kin carers in Central Western NSW who provide both short term and long term placements for children. The position will be co-located between Cowra and Orange.

The ideal person will have:

- Experience working with children and families
- Experience in providing case management to children, families and carers
- Experience and understanding of working with Aboriginal children and their families
- Knowledge of issues surrounding abuse and neglect of children
- Ability to work within the local Aboriginal community
- An unrestricted car license

Total Packaged Value: \$75,693 - \$94,060 (includes superannuation and car)

abrs considers that being Aboriginal is a genuine occupational qualification under S14 of The Anti Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).

To apply for this role and for the full job description please contact Anna Baines at abrs on (02) 9218 2354 or email anna@abrs.net.au

Closing date 5:00pm Friday 25th November 2015.



**Barnardos
Australia**



Senior Research / Evaluation Consultant

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identified position

CIRCA is looking for an experienced, highly motivated, and dedicated senior consultant to join our small Sydney team. CIRCA is an industry-recognised leader in Indigenous and multilingual research and evaluation, providing research and evaluation services to a wide range of government agencies and non-government organisations.

The senior research and evaluation consultant position entails:

- Working in a client-focussed team, committed to best practice when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- Responding to research and evaluation requests, designing culturally appropriate methodologies to meet objectives, and assisting in the preparation of detailed proposals
- Managing fieldwork, including the development of research and evaluation tools, facilitating qualitative research (including inter-state travel), managing, briefing and supporting bilingual and Indigenous research partners and other fieldwork suppliers, and responding to fieldwork issues
- Conducting analysis of a range of qualitative and quantitative data, delivering strategic insights, preparing written reports and verbal presentations
- Collaborating in all aspects of project management and developing new business.

Selection Criteria

To be considered for this role, you will need to demonstrate the following:

- Deep understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history, and of issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities
- At least 5 years experience working in either research or evaluation, project management, policy, or Aboriginal affairs
- Ability to develop and sustain strong relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and communities and government
- High-level communications skills both written and verbal
- History of successful project planning and management, and the ability to work collaboratively in a team, as well as manage several projects and tasks concurrently within tight deadlines
- Demonstrated ability to collate, analyse and synthesise research data into well-written reports for diverse stakeholders, including government
- Relevant tertiary qualifications.

This is an identified position for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person. CIRCA considers that being an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person is a genuine occupational qualification under s 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).

At CIRCA we provide our employees with excellent working conditions, a modern, respectful, collaborative culture, ongoing support, and a family friendly environment which accommodates a range of personal circumstances.

To apply, please send a cover letter addressing the selection criteria (no more than 3 pages) and your CV by **5pm 7 December 2015** to:

Jessica Willis,
Level 1/93 Norton St, Leichhardt NSW 2040, jess@culper.com.au, +61 2 8585 1310

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CENTRECARE

Centrecare is a not-for-profit organisation committed to delivering quality professional counselling, support, family dispute resolution and training services. We offer you an opportunity to share in this commitment. Our current vacancies are...

Indigenous Advisor Community Services

Cash Component \$85,500

Total Package includes salary packaging and superannuation \$100,930

This role plays a key part in ensuring the agency provides culturally secure and responsive support services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout the community. In addition this role ensures that all Centrecare programs and practices are culturally responsive, appropriate, based on current evidence based practice and meet all legislative, regulatory and human rights standards.

Applicants must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent as per S.50(d) of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA).

Centrecare offers all its employees additional personal leave, paid maternity leave, the option to participate in an attractive salary packaging scheme and the ability to develop further through training programs.

To download your copy of the application pack please visit our website www.centrecare.com.au, applications must address the individual selection criteria for each role. For a confidential discussion please call Human Resources on 08 9325 6644.

Applications close 5pm Monday 23 November 2015

JOB APPLICATION PACKAGES can be obtained by visiting www.centrecare.com.au or by phoning Human Resources on (08) 9325 6644.

Centrecare offers all its employees additional personal leave, paid maternity leave, the option to participate in an attractive salary packaging scheme and the ability to develop further through training programs.

People Making Time for People

adcorp WG12899

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (DPI) WATER

UPPER MURRAY RIVER WATER SOURCE, MURRAY RIVER

An application for a NEW COMBINED WORKS AND USE APPROVAL has been received from **S & P WHITSED PTY LTD** for a 200mm centrifugal pump on Lot 1 DP660336 for irrigation purposes on Lot 1 DP660336.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to DPI Water, PO Box 829, Albury NSW 2640, within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address to specify the grounds of objection. (A007074).

Any queries please call (02) 6024 8852, David Finnimore, Water Regulation Officer.

Z07494

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (DPI) WATER

LOWER GWYDIR GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORKS & WATER USE approval has been received from **FAIRVIEW CARE LIMITED** for a bore on Lot 10 DP 1113157 Parish Moree, County Courallie for irrigation purposes.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to DPI Water, PO Box 486, Moree NSW 2400, within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address to specify the grounds of objection. (A06740)

Any queries please call (02) 6757 2502, Anthony Colvin, Water Regulation Officer.

Z07463

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (DPI) WATER

LACHLAN FOLD BELT MDB GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORK AND USE APPROVAL has been received from **J POTTER** for a bore, for irrigation purposes on Lot 10 DP 841980 Ellerslie/Wynyard.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to DPI Water PO Box 156 Leeton NSW 2705 within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection.

Any queries please call 02 6951 2576, Paul Morsanuto.

Z07464

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (DPI) WATER

NEW ENGLAND FOLD BELT MDB GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for an Amended Water Use Approval (90CA826794) has been received from **BARRY CEDRIC & PATRICIA IRENE WILLIAMSON** for the addition of 110//1834 and 111//1834, Parish Glen Innes, County Gough for Irrigation purposes.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to PO BOX 550 TAMWORTH NSW 2340 within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection (A7060).

Any queries please call (02) 6763 1470, Ben Hanks, Senior Water Regulation Officer.

Z07495

Public notice

Community Open Day

Saturday 5th December 2015

Deebing Creek Mission (former) via Grampian Drive Frasers Property

Frasers Property Australia Pty Limited (Frasers Property), formerly known as Australand, has recently purchased the land at 152 – 280 Grampian Drive, Deebing Heights, Queensland from Deebing Developments Pty Ltd.

A portion of this land is part of the former Deebing Creek Mission, which is listed as a State heritage-registered place on the Queensland Heritage Register.

Frasers Property acknowledges the historical significance of the land and is committed to working with the community and affected stakeholders.

Frasers Property conducted an initial community meeting on 21st Oct 2015 to commence consultation. The next step in the process will involve Frasers Property hosting the community at an open day on the heritage listed site on Sat 5th Dec.

We invite all people with an interest in the future development of the land to the Community Open Day.

The details for the community open day are as follows:

Date: Saturday 5th December 2015
Time: 9:30am to lunch time
Venue: Deebing Creek Mission (former)
Address 152 – 280 Grampian Drive, Deebing Heights, Qld 4306

A BBQ lunch and refreshments will be provided. Frasers Property would appreciate if you could register your attendance at deebingheights@frasersproperty.com.au by no later than **Friday, 27th November 2015.**

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (DPI) WATER

LOWER MURRUMBIDGEE DEEP GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **BERNARD WALSH** for a bore for irrigation purposes on Lot 539 DP 751745 Parish Cooper County Yarangery.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to DPI Water, PO Box 156, Leeton NSW 2705 within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address to specify the grounds of objection.(A7021)

Any queries please call (02) 6951 2576, Paul Morsanuto, Water Regulation Officer.

Z07302

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (DPI) WATER

LOWER MURRAY SHALLOW GROUNDWATER SOURCE

Applications to amend three existing WATER SUPPLY WORKS APPROVALS have been received from:

ROGER WILLIAM PETERS AND ELIZABETH ANN PETERS for a spearpoint on Lot 2 DP820154, Parish Toolon, County Wakool for irrigation purposes (works existing, change in purpose only) (A7047).

ROGER WILLIAM PETERS, ELIZABETH ANN PETERS AND KENT ROGER PETERS for a spearpoint on Lot 1131 DP1058121, Parish Toolon, County Wakool for irrigation purposes (works existing, change in purpose only) (A7048).

ROGER WILLIAM PETERS, ELIZABETH ANN PETERS AND KENT ROGER PETERS for a spearpoint on Lot 3 DP832004, Parish Bookit, County Wakool for irrigation purposes (works existing, change in purpose only) (A7049).

Objections to the granting amendments to these approvals must be registered in writing to DPI Water, PO Box 205, Deniliquin NSW 2710, within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name, address to specify the grounds of objection.

Any queries please call (03) 5898 3935, Jenny Campion, Water Regulation Officer.

Z07448

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (DPI) WATER

UPPER MACQUARIE ALLUVIAL GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a new WATER SUPPLY WORKS AND WATER USE APPROVAL has been received from **NEIL JOSEPH O'CONNOR & JENNIFER LOUISE O'CONNOR** for a new irrigation bore located on Lot 7 DP 752572 Parish of Ewenmar County of Eurombedah for the extraction of water from the Upper Macquarie Alluvial Groundwater Source.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to DPI Water, PO Box 717, DUBBO NSW 2830 within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address to specify the grounds of objection. (A006992)

Any queries please call (02) 6841 7469, Alice Clifton, Water Regulation Officer.

Z07308

For all your advertising needs email:

advertising@koorimail.com

or call

02 6622 2666



NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF AUTHORISATION MEETING OF THE GOMEROI PEOPLES' NATIVE TITLE CLAIM GROUP (NSD 2308/2011)

A notice of an Authorisation Meeting of the Gomeroi Peoples' Native Title Claim Group (NSD2308/2011) ('Meeting') was published in the Koori Mail on Wednesday 4 November 2015. The Meeting was to be held on Wednesday, 2 December 2015 and Thursday, 3 December 2015 at Tamworth War Memorial Town Hall. A notice was also sent to members of the native title claim group in the Gomeroi People native title determination application (NSD2308/2011) ('Gomeroi Claim Group Members') for whom we have contact details.

Please note that the Meeting has been cancelled.


NTSCORP Ltd has also sent letters to Gomeroi Claim Group Members for whom we have contact details to inform Gomeroi Claim Group Members of the cancellation and the reasons for it.

NTSCORP Ltd thanks all Gomeroi Claim Group Members who registered their interest in attending the Meeting. If you have already registered, NTSCORP Ltd will contact you by telephone shortly to inform you that the Meeting has been cancelled.

NTSCORP Ltd apologises for any inconvenience caused.

If you are a Gomeroi Claim Group Member and you have any questions about this notice, please contact us on the details below:

Our details are: **Freecall** 1800 111 844 or (02) 9310 3188
Post: P.O. Box 2105, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012
Fax: (02) 9310 4177



NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (Cth) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	70/1329	URBAN RESOURCES PTY LTD	681.11HA	27km N'ly of Perth	Lat: 31° 42' S Long: 115° 52' E	SWAN SHIRE, WANNEROO SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.

Notification day: 18 November 2015

Native title parties: Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **18 February 2016**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. The mining tenements may be granted if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (**i.e. 18 March 2016**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the mining tenements.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

adcorp WG12940

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (DPI) WATER

YASS CATCHMENT GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORKS APPROVAL has been received from **ADDRESSING GLOBAL WARMING PTY LTD** for 1 x bore, at/adjacent to Lot 2//1203828, Parish of Nanima, County of Murray, for Irrigation purposes.


Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to DPI Water, PO Box 156, Leeton NSW 2705, within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address to specify the grounds of objection. (A7088)

Any queries please call (02) 6953 0700, Phillip Killen, Water Regulation Officer.

Z07620

Sport

Simon, Williams in Matildas squad



INDIGENOUS players Kyah Simon and Lydia Williams were in the Australian women's soccer squad at a quickfire training camp in Canberra last week as the Matildas began their build-up to qualifying for next year's Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games.


Fifteen-year-old Ellie Carpenter a defender for Western Sydney, is the sole uncapped player in a 23-strong squad named by coach Alen Stajcic.

The Cowra product only signed for the Wanderers ahead of this W-League season but, after playing every minute of every match in the first four rounds, she has clearly done enough to impress Stajcic and his Matildas coaching staff.

The Matildas were in Canberra to fine tune their preparations ahead of February's Asian qualification tournament for the Rio 2016 Olympics.

Meanwhile, the Matildas have accepted an invitation to play a friendly against South Korea on November 29 in Incheon.

Simon is a striker and Williams a goalkeeper. – *With AAP*



GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	08/2640	KALAMAZOO RESOURCES PTY LTD	76BL	74km SE'ly of Onslow	Lat: 22° 9' S Long: 115° 34' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/2749	NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES LIMITED	20BL	80km SW'ly of Paraburdoo	Lat: 23° 37' S Long: 117° 2' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/2756	AUSTRALIAN COPPER PTY LTD	16BL	44km SW'ly of Paraburdoo	Lat: 23° 33' S Long: 117° 30' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/2757	AUSTRALIAN COPPER PTY LTD	5BL	33km SW'ly of Paraburdoo	Lat: 23° 27' S Long: 117° 30' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/2763-I	ROBE RIVER MINING CO. PTY LIMITED MITSUI IRON ORE DEVELOPMENT PTY LTD NORTH MINING LIMITED CAPE LAMBERT IRON ASSOCIATES (REGISTERED BUSINESS NAME) PANNAWONICA IRON ASSOCIATES (REGISTERED BUSINESS NAME)	11BL	48km W'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 21° 35' S Long: 115° 52' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	09/2149	SORRENTO RESOURCES PTY LTD	8BL	159km NE'ly of Gascoyne Junction	Lat: 24° 12' S Long: 116° 28' E	UPPER GASCOYNE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/1479	GOLDEN LIFE NATURE PRODUCTS (WA) PTY LTD	16BL	48km E'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 17' S Long: 122° 9' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/1480	GOLDEN LIFE NATURE PRODUCTS (WA) PTY LTD	16BL	59km E'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 23' S Long: 122° 15' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/1483	ALLIANCE (SA) PTY LTD	70BL	45km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 20' S Long: 121° 0' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	16/485	GOLDSTAR RESOURCES (WA) PTY LTD	10BL	78km SW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 30° 18' S Long: 120° 38' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	20/879	RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	29BL	55km E'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 14' S Long: 118° 23' E	CUE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	27/551	SUMITOMO METAL MINING OCEANIA PTY LTD	8BL	49km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 26' S Long: 121° 50' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	27/552	SUMITOMO METAL MINING OCEANIA PTY LTD	15BL	52km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 29' S Long: 121° 55' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	28/2512	SHANNON RESOURCES PTY LTD	1BL	77km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 31' S Long: 122° 13' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	28/2557	MCCLAREN, Kym Anthony MANSEN, James Karl	4BL	156km E'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 57' S Long: 123° 17' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	29/962	BLUE THUNDER RESOURCES PTY LTD	3BL	96km W'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 57' S Long: 120° 21' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	30/481	DALLA-COSTA, Melville Raymond	31BL	85km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 38' S Long: 120° 9' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	31/1115	MARRIOTT, Wayne Frank	1BL	79km E'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 33' S Long: 121° 50' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	37/1244-I	BULLSEYE MINING LIMITED	10BL	97km NE'ly of Leinster	Lat: 27° 31' S Long: 121° 34' E	LAVERTON SHIRE, LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3085	DUKETON MINING LTD	50BL	90km NW'ly of Cosmo Newberry Mission	Lat: 27° 28' S Long: 122° 12' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/1893	PIPER PRESTON PTY LTD	81BL	113km SE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 29° 27' S Long: 123° 4' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/1894	PIPER PRESTON PTY LTD	52BL	98km SE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 29° 25' S Long: 122° 50' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/1895	KALGOORLIE NICKEL PROJECT PTY LTD	18BL	67km SE'ly of Leonora	Lat: 29° 15' S Long: 121° 52' E	LEONORA SHIRE, MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	45/4602	SORRENTO RESOURCES PTY LTD	7BL	24km S'ly of Marble Bar	Lat: 21° 23' S Long: 119° 43' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	45/4609	INDEPENDENCE NEWSEARCH PTY LTD	97BL	154km SW'ly of Telfer	Lat: 22° 49' S Long: 121° 20' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	45/4611	STATE RESOURCES PTY LTD	12BL	47km W'ly of Marble Bar	Lat: 21° 12' S Long: 119° 17' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/3194	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	34BL	42km N'ly of Newman	Lat: 22° 59' S Long: 119° 45' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/3325-I	HAMERSLEY IRON PTY LIMITED	1BL	27km NW'ly of Newman	Lat: 23° 10' S Long: 119° 33' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/3347	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	11BL	28km NW'ly of Newman	Lat: 23° 15' S Long: 119° 29' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/3355	FORGE RESOURCES SWAN PTY LTD	68BL	73km E'ly of Roebourne	Lat: 20° 45' S Long: 117° 51' E	KARRATHA CITY, PORT HEDLAND TOWN
Exploration Licence	51/1702	SANDFIRE RESOURCES NL	1BL	74km N'ly of Meekatharra	Lat: 25° 55' S Long: 118° 32' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/1706	MURROULI RANGE PTY LTD	14BL	33km SW'ly of Meekatharra	Lat: 26° 49' S Long: 118° 16' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/3330	SANDFIRE RESOURCES NL	35BL	88km N'ly of Meekatharra	Lat: 25° 48' S Long: 118° 33' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/3334	KALAMAZOO RESOURCES PTY LTD	10BL	150km NW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 25° 37' S Long: 119° 47' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1036	ACACIA MINING PTY LTD	13BL	42km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 16' S Long: 119° 0' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	58/492	MURCHISON GOLD MINES PTY LTD	53BL	28km S'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 40' S Long: 117° 49' E	CUE SHIRE, MOUNT MAGNET SHIRE
Exploration Licence	58/495	RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	44BL	53km SE'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 42' S Long: 118° 19' E	CUE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	58/496	RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	31BL	57km NE'ly of Mount Magnet	Lat: 27° 50' S Long: 118° 22' E	MOUNT MAGNET SHIRE
Exploration Licence	59/2139-I	XSERV PTY LTD	70BL	8km SE'ly of Yalgoo	Lat: 28° 23' S Long: 116° 44' E	YALGOO SHIRE
Exploration Licence	59/2148	BRISTOL CONTRACTING PTY LTD	10BL	61km NE'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 28° 53' S Long: 118° 8' E	MOUNT MAGNET SHIRE
Exploration Licence	59/2153	MINJAR GOLD PTY LTD	1BL	72km SE'ly of Yalgoo	Lat: 28° 55' S Long: 117° 0' E	YALGOO SHIRE
Exploration Licence	74/568	VENUS METALS CORPORATION LIMITED	25BL	25km SE'ly of Ravensthorpe	Lat: 33° 42' S Long: 120° 16' E	RAVENSTHORPE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2323	MAHONEY, Lyndon Scott	1BL	83km NW'ly of Koolyanobbing	Lat: 30° 9' S Long: 119° 6' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/5987	WILDVIPER PTY LTD	40.03HA	2km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 58' S Long: 121° 9' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/5993	MCMEEKEN, Brendon Ralph	37.67HA	11km E'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 55' S Long: 121° 16' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/2913-4	CASCADE RESOURCES LIMITED	397.83HA	43km NW'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 30' S Long: 121° 6' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	16/2917-S	PRINCE, Jane	9.38HA	67km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 27' S Long: 120° 44' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/2918-S	PRINCE, Jane	10.00HA	67km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 28' S Long: 120° 45' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	20/2254	ALLANSON ENGINEERING PTY LTD	112.50HA	46km NE'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 3' S Long: 118° 5' E	CUE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/4932	CASCADE RESOURCES LTD	189.85HA	57km NW'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 26' S Long: 120° 59' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/4989	YANDAN GOLD MINES PTY LTD	199.97HA	24km NW'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 34' S Long: 121° 20' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2336	POLLARD, Glenn	13.68HA	28km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 46' S Long: 121° 45' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2235	DAWS, John William RENTON, Darrall James	6.72HA	39km N'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 24' S Long: 121° 33' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	29/2365	STUBBS, Gregory Wayne	177.31HA	8km E'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 40' S Long: 121° 6' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	37/8607	ATTARD, Raymond John	53.26HA	6km NE'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 51' S Long: 121° 22' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	38/4179-80	GSM MINING COMPANY PTY LTD	291.38HA	28km S'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 52' S Long: 122° 27' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	38/4182-3	GSM MINING COMPANY PTY LTD	385.73HA	27km S'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 51' S Long: 122° 29' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	57/1386	MCCLAREN, Kym Anthony TANUCCI, Leo	7.62HA	11km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 2' S Long: 119° 12' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	58/1683	EASTERN GOLDFIELDS EXPLORATION PTY LTD	187.32HA	14km SW'ly of Mount Magnet	Lat: 28° 10' S Long: 117° 46' E	MOUNT MAGNET SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	70/1681	GRIMES, Robert	0.42HA	17km E'ly of Perth	Lat: 32° 0' S Long: 116° 1' E	KALAMUNDA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	70/1682	KEYSBROOK LEUCOXENE PTY LTD	148.45HA	11km S'ly of Pinjarra	Lat: 32° 43' S Long: 115° 54' E	MURRAY SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	70/1683	KEYSBROOK LEUCOXENE PTY LTD	99.89HA	7km N'ly of Waroona	Lat: 32° 47' S Long: 115° 55' E	MURRAY SHIRE, WAROONA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4329-31 & 77/4334-6	WEMBLEY CORPORATE SERVICES PTY LTD	969.38HA	11km SE'ly of Bullfinch	Lat: 31° 4' S Long: 119° 10' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4332-3 & 77/4337-8	WEMBLEY CORPORATE SERVICES PTY LTD	734.57HA	4km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 12' S Long: 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4339-41	WEMBLEY CORPORATE SERVICES PTY LTD	517.67HA	11km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 9' S Long: 119° 15' E	YILGARN SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 18 November 2015


Native title parties: Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **18 February 2016**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.

Expedited procedure: The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each licence may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (**i.e. 18 March 2016**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²

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The Voice of Indigenous Australia

THE KOORI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015.

73

Motlop shines in difficult season

By PETER ARGENT



MARLON Motlop was the shining light in the North Adelaide Football Club's tough season. The 25-year-old ball magnet was the standout performer for the Roosters in a winter where they won just one game and finished at the bottom of the ladder.

At the club's recent presentation night, Motlop was awarded the prestigious Barrie Robran Medal as North's best and fairest footballer for 2015.

A comfortable winner, he was 20 votes clear of runner-up Cameron Craig, with former skipper Todd Miles third.

One of the biggest possession winners in the SANFL for the season, Motlop was among the best players for the Roosters in nine of the 18 games during the minor round.

A member of the famous Motlop

clan from Darwin, he is in his second stint at the Roosters, having first been at the club, when on Port Adelaide's AFL list between 2008-2011.

After a couple of seasons in the WAFL, he returned to Prospect in 2014.

"It has been one of my most consistent years," Motlop said.

"In terms of my football down south, it (the Barrie Robran Medal) is right up there on the list of achievements.

"Along with the Wanderers (NRFL) premiership in March, it is certainly a cherished memory

"I didn't miss a day of the pre-season this year, which had a massive impact

"All my times and testing were at career bests, so that helped me be ready for the winter.

"I'm eight weeks on from post-season shoulder surgery, so that may preclude me from returning to Darwin and playing with the Wanderers for the 2015-16 campaign."

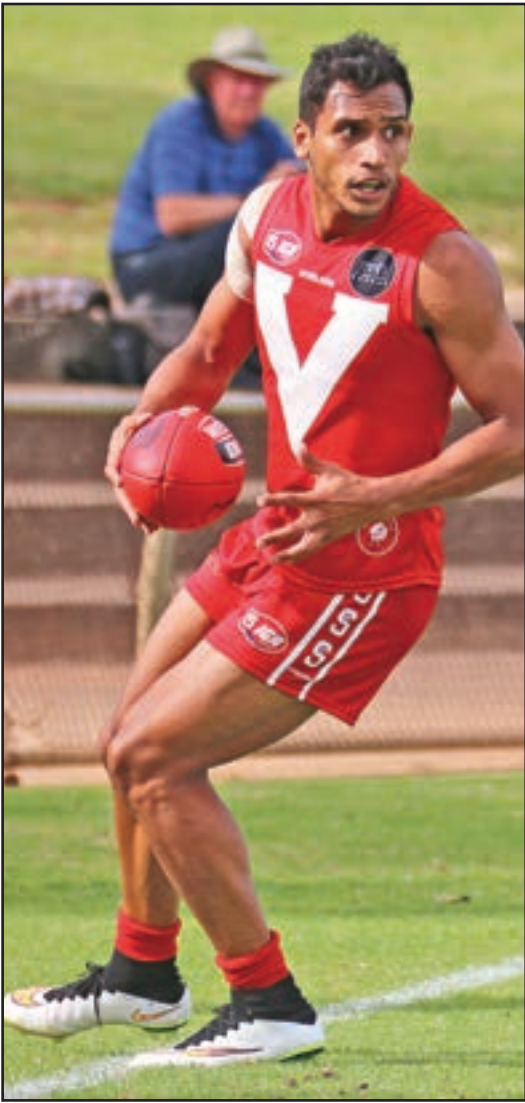
He also played state league representative football during the season.

Motlop has signed with North Adelaide again for the 2016 and is excited they have Josh Carr as a new senior coach on board at Prospect.

"I was with 'Carry' for two seasons at the Power and played alongside him in a couple of AFL games that I participated in," Motlop said.

"Josh is a great football person and he is a good fit for the North Adelaide Football Club.

"He is the type of person you were happy to be standing alongside when going into battle."



Marlon Motlop Picture: Peter Argent

Southern girls take out NT softball title

By ALF WILSON



SOUTHERN Northern Territory's Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council All Stars team, with players from remote Indigenous communities, won the division two final at the Territory's softball championships in Darwin.

The NPY women won the decider 8-6 over Central Desert side Laramba Roos last month.

The All Stars team, which was made up of women from Finke, Imanpa, Mutitjulu, Docker River and Yulara communities, won all of their games.

"The women are still basking in the glory and they have reason to be," a carnival spokeswoman said.

"On top of winning all their matches, team members Rita Okai, from Mutitjulu, and Cecily Mumu, from Imanpa, were also named in the NT women's division 2 All Star tournament team selected for the NT representative team.

"And All-Star pitcher Keely Hutchinson, from Yulara, was selected as best pitcher of the competition."

The All Stars had the assistance of national softball coach Johnny Gaynor.

The side was picked after the Southern Northern Territory Association's 2015 season that featured sides from the five communities.

Imanpa Fillies made it back-to-back premierships when they beat Finke in the Southern Northern Territory Association's grand final.

The team's participation in Darwin was coordinated by NPY Women's Council through funding from NT Sport and Recreation and Mutitjulu Foundation.



These NPY women won the division two final at the Northern Territory softball championship.



NOTICE TO GRANT AMALGAMATION APPLICATIONS NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following amalgamation applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Exploration No.	Applicant	Amalg No	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
38/1211	GSM MINING COMPANY PTY LTD	475365	71.00HA	41km S'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 39' S Long: 122° 21' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
38/2887	GSM MINING COMPANY PTY LTD	475962	9.20HA	12km SE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 43' S Long: 122° 28' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
38/2925	GSM MINING COMPANY PTY LTD	475961	20.87HA	14km SE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 43' S Long: 122° 29' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
38/3038	PHOSPHATE AUSTRALIA LIMITED	475839	358.76HA	18km SE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 44' S Long: 122° 29' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
45/3641-I	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	475880	3.02HA	64km SW'ly of Marble Bar	Lat: 21° 27' S Long: 119° 13' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.

Notification day: 18 November 2015

Native title parties: Under Section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the applications. The 3 month period closes on **18 February 2016**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.

Expedited procedure: The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each amalgamation application may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (**i.e. 18 March 2016**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

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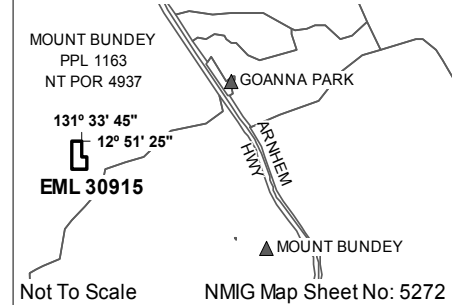
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF AN EXTRACTIVE MINERAL LEASE

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Honourable David William Tollner MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mines and Energy, C/- Department of Mines and Energy, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of his intent to do an act(s) namely to grant the following extractive mineral lease application.

The application to which this notice applies:

Extractive Mineral Lease 30915 sought by BORAL RESOURCES (QLD) PTY LIMITED, ACN 009 671 809 over an area of 12 Ha depicted below for a term of 10 years, within the MARY RIVER locality.



Notification Day: 2 December 2015

Nature of act(s): The grant of an extractive mineral lease under the *Mineral Titles Act* authorises the holder to extract or remove (whether by quarrying or other means) from, on or below the natural surface of the land, extractive mineral(s) for a term not exceeding 10 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the extractive mineral lease/s referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Mines and Energy, GPO Box 4550, Darwin NT 0801 or Centrepont Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5213.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Melbourne VIC 3001, or telephone (03) 9920 3000.



Lavinia Barrett, from Legana, starts off for first base in for the under 30s softball team.



Plenty of women joined the fun and games of the football match this year. Denika Corcoran, Sara Maynard and Jada Edwards chase the ball as Graham Gardner is pushed to the ground.



Nala Mansell focuses on the ball for the over 30s netball team.

Generations join

Story and pictures by JILLIAN MUNDY



IT was on for young and old at this year's Laurie Lowery Generation Cup in Launceston recently where over 30s competed against under 30s in football, softball and netball.

The under 30s won the Laurie Lowery football match by 12 points, the Amy Beeton netball match by one point, but experience kicked in to beat youth in the softball by three runs.

Not that the scores were a big deal... The cup, which is thought to be in its 20th year, is one of the biggest statewide events on the Aboriginal calendar in Tasmania and promotes community pride, sportsmanship and healthy lifestyle.

Footballer Derek Peardon was this year's inductee to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Sports Hall of Fame.

"This person is pretty much a big deal in their chosen sport," Jay McDonald said in presenting Peardon with the award.

"He's got that many awards and accolades I can't go into them all."

Richmond trailblazer

Peardon was Richmond's first Aboriginal player in 1971 and is credited for initiating his then teammate Kevin Sheedy's interest in Aboriginal Australia.

Selected in the 1965 All-Australian Schoolboys' team, he played in the 1966 Richmond fourths premiership side as well as the 1967 under 19s premiership and 1971 reserves premiership – his last game for the club.

Unfortunately, the former schoolboy champion footballer and runner was hampered by injury and only played 20 games with Richmond.

Upon returning to Tasmania in 1972, Peardon played six seasons for City-South (Launceston), including premierships in 1972 and 1974.

During this period, he won two club and one association best and fairest awards.

He also represented the Northern Tasmanian Football Association and Tasmania.

He concluded his outstanding career with a season for North Hobart in the Tasmanian Football League.

This year a special 'in the spirit' medallion was presented to Carly Spotswood for attending just about every

Generation Cup and being on the sidelines cheering for the netball, softball and football.

She has also played in the netball every year since the Cup began, with the exception of 2014 when she had a fractured knee.

This year she broke her toe during the game, but continued to play, and even participated in the kids' games.

"I love going to the Generation Cup to see my people, and all play sport together and enjoy the day, and spend the day with my kids because they like it too," she said.

"I hope to play well into my 50s like my aunts and my mum.

"The Generation Cup is up there with putalina (annual Aboriginal music festival) for me and my family."



Brendan Riley, best player in the under 30s netball team, leaps up to grab the ball.



● ABOVE LEFT: Brenton Brown, from Burnie, jumps to mark the football for the over 30s.

● ABOVE: Carly Spotswood was awarded the inaugural 'In the Spirit' medallion.



● LEFT: Footballer Derek Peardon was inducted into the Tasmanian Aboriginal Sports Hall of Fame.

Eagles soar at NPA carnival

Story by ALF WILSON
Pictures by ROGER BARTLETT



ALAU Eagles won the final of the Queensland Rugby League (QRL)-sanctioned Dan Ropeyarn Memorial Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) All blacks rugby league carnival at Bamaga, beating Roos United 16-8.

Twelve sides battled it out from October 29-31 at Bamaga's Yusia Ginou Memorial Oval, with the winning team pocketing \$20,000 and the runners-up \$10,000.

Players came from the NPA, Torres Strait, Cape York and as far away as Cairns, Yarrabah, Townsville and Palm Island.

The sides were split into two pools – Pool A: Central Cape Native Uponga, Malu Kiwai, Brothers, Roos United, Goemu Bau Raiders, Aputhdama Brothers; Pool B: New Mapoon Warriors, 8HB, Surumau Gladiators, Alau Eagles, Weipa Raiders, Chivari Warriors.

Favourites

The final featured two well-coached sides, with Alau Eagles going in as slight favourites.

Alau Eagles were boosted by players such as brothers George and Maipale Morseu, Aiona Nona, Marko and Robbie Wilson, and Manu Wigness. They led 10-4 at half-time.

Alau Eagles try scorers were Brian Yoelu, Danny Mairu and Maipale Morseu. Goal kickers were Patrick Ropeyarn and Marko Wilson.

Solomon Blanket and Ronald Tamwoy were the try scorers for Roos United.

Earlier on the last day, the top two sides from the pools met in sudden-death semifinals.

Roos United beat Surumau Gladiators 44-14 and Alau Eagles beat Apadthama Brothers 24-14.

Missed out

Torres Strait sides Malu Kiwai and Goemu Bau Raiders performed well in the qualifying games, but failed to reach the semifinals.

Weipa Raiders also did well, winning three of their four qualifying matches, but missed out on a semifinal berth on for and against points differential.

Player of the final was Sam Bann, carnival best back was Manu Wigness and best forward was Joey Laifoo.

The coveted player of the carnival award went to Brothers star Tim Oberleuter and the fastest man was Toa Christian and fastest women Allana Nona.

In volleyball, RGB Sistas won from New Mapoon Jaguars.

That was the last rugby league carnival in the TS or NPA for 2015.



● ABOVE: Alau Eagles are winners of the Dan Ropeyarn Memorial NPA rugby league carnival at Bamaga.



● RIGHT: There was plenty of action in the sudden-death semifinal between Surumau Gladiators and Roos United. Roos United won 44-14.

● BELOW: The semifinal between Alau Eagles and Apadthama Brothers was intense. The Eagles won 24-14 and then went on to beat Roos United 16-8 in the final.



Star of the show pulls out



ORGANISERS have flown to the US in an attempt to reverse three-time world supercross champion James Stewart's withdrawal from this month's AUS-X Open in Sydney and a showdown with Australian Indigenous star Chad Reed.

Stewart was expected to race against two-times world champion Reed and other leading Australian riders in the November 28-29 event at Allphones Arena.

"Stewart was contracted to race both November 28 and 29 events and we are shocked to hear from his management this morning he is no longer racing," said the organisers in a statement.

Stewart, who twice jammed his wrist in separate incidents last month, was withdrawn by his Yoshimura Suzuki Factory Racing team who said they wanted him to focus on getting ready for the 2016 season-opening race in Anaheim, California, in January.

"We were looking forward for him to get as many gate drops as possible before Anaheim but we just lost three weeks out of our program," team manager Mike Webb said.

"We feel the amount of time the trip to Australia would consume would be too much at this point."

Stewart is still expected to race in the Bercy-Lille Supercross in France on November 14-15.

"I'm bummed for all my fans and sponsors I won't be able to make it to Australia," Stewart said.

"The best thing about being back racing has been experiencing all the fan support first hand.

"I was really looking forward to doing that in Australia, but I have to look at the big picture and we're two months from A1 and I need to show up there healthy and prepared."

Not satisfied

AUS-X Open management weren't satisfied with the team's reasoning though, and will now attempt to enter negotiations to ensure Stewart changes his mind.

The AUS-X Open event is being billed as the biggest action sports competition in the southern hemisphere, combining an international supercross racing event with a freestyle motocross (FMX) Best Trick competition.

"I'm stoked to be riding in the first ever AUS-X Open and showcasing our amazing sport to the home fans in Sydney on November 28," said Reed.

"The supercross racing is going to be intense without a doubt and with the FMX guys alongside competing for the Best Trick title, this is going to be one of the greatest action sports events to hit Aussie shores.

"Australia has some of the highest quality riders on the planet so it's going to be awesome to line up next to our home grown talent at one of the world's best venues for supercross in Allphones Arena. I haven't competed there since I first left for the USA 14 years ago."

Event director Adam Bailey, of AME Management, said, "Chad is one of the most successful Australians to ever ride a dirt bike and is the fourth most successful supercross racer in history."

Yarrabah's thrilling win

By ALF WILSON



A TRY in golden point extra time gave Yarrabah's Bukki Buna (1) a 28-24 win over Curacao Crusaders in the final of the Gordonvale Indigenous rugby league carnival.

Scores had been deadlocked at 24-all

when the siren sounded in the decider at Alley Park.

The carnival featured 12 men's sides. Organiser Bernie Joinbee said the carnival – held from October 7-9 and in its third year – was a great success.

"We had some great feedback on the carnival. It ran quite smoothly with fantastic volunteers and staff. We had a ball," he said.

Veteran Charles Murgha (Bukki Buna 1) won the carnival's best back award; best forward was Darryl Lightning (Kadar), highest pointscorer was Haydn Busch (Allan Oliver Memorial team), highest try scorer was Bradley Stephen (Bukki Buna 1) and player of the carnival was Ameil Harris (Bukki Buna 1).

In the earlier semifinals, Bukki Buna (1) beat Diringhi 26-16 and Curacao

Crusaders beat Allan Oliver Memorial 26-12.

The quarterfinals saw Bukki Buna (1) beat Julaymba 40-14, Curacao Crusaders beat Malu Kiwai 20-12, Allan Oliver Memorial beat Vanuatu Descendants 34-18 and Diringhi beat Black Cockatoos 32-28.

In the plate final, Mossman Kudar beat Bukki Buna (2) 32-22.



Bukki Buna (1), from Yarrabah, are the winners of the Gordonvale Indigenous rugby league carnival. Pictures: Christine Howes



A Curacao Crusaders player is within reach of the tryline in the final against Bukki Buna (1).



● ABOVE: Bukki Buna (1) second rower Jack Webster comes in for plenty of attention from Curacao Crusaders defenders in the final.

● ABOVE RIGHT: Airborne Mossman Kudar player Peter Tuccandigee is tackled in the game against Bukki Buna (2) in the plate final. Mossman Kudar won 32-22.

● RIGHT: Mossman Kudar's Jack Hogan is not far from the tryline, but still has work to do in the plate final against Bukki Buna (2).

● LEFT: A Bukki Buna (1) player tries to evade a tackler in the final against Curacao Crusaders.



The Curacao Crusaders were beaten 28-24 in the final



Yarrabah's Bukki Buna (2) team.



Mossman Kudar won the plate final



Kai Lowah is in the US with a touring Indigenous Invitational rugby union under 20 team.
Picture: Christine Howes

Indigenous under 20 rugby team tours US



TRAINEE Kai Lowah, 18, is in the United States as part of the national Indigenous under

20 Australian Invitational rugby union team, and he's excited.

Lowah, a prop, has been playing rugby since he was 10.

"I started playing rugby league and one of my friends suggested I come over and see how I went with rugby union for a season," he said.

"So I did and I liked it, and I've been doing rugby ever since.

"I reckon it's a more physical game."

He stuck with it throughout school, playing for St Peters Lutheran College (Brisbane) First XV and then, after coming back to his home town of Cairns, for the James Cook University Mariners.

Lowah is also a trainee for the eHealth Team at Apunipima Cape York Health Council in Cairns.

He said he was surprised and humbled to be chosen.

The Indigenous squad is playing against five college teams across the US in 14 days.

The Indigenous played their second tour match against an American Native XV on November 10 in very cold conditions at the famous Route 66 township of Gallop, New Mexico.

The historic match pitted the American natives up against a select Australian Aboriginal team – the first time the two peoples had met in any football code.

The Indigenous Warrior America team included five sets of brothers and was assembled from five different states.

The match which was staged at the local football stadium and played in blinding snow that had the visitors thermally shocked, but the Indigenous Australians won the match 41-7, despite spirited opposition.

The Indigenous Australians defeated combined Universities of New Mexico 84-17 and were to play Arizona State University as their third tour match.

Katherine hosts cricket



TWENTY-TWO cricket teams converged on Katherine in early November for the 2015 Nitmiluk Cup

They played in three divisions: the MILO T20 Blast School Cup, the Nitmiluk Shield (mixed) and the Nitmiluk Cup for men.

More than 100 boys and girls took part in the fast-paced format of the School Cup, with Borroloola taking out the girls' division and St Joseph's Joeys bringing home victory in the boys' division.

The Borroloola girls will now go on to represent the NT at the National MILO T20 Blast School Cup at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in December.

Four teams contested the Nitmiluk Shield, including the Bad Company Women, the Kalano Crocettes, Bowled and the Beautiful, and the visiting Bulla Boab Nuts.

The Bulla Boab Nuts took on Bad Company Women in the final where tight, restrictive bowling saw the Bad Company Women knocked over for 28, with Melly Henry and Gary Birriman (1-1 off 1 over apiece) the pick of the bowlers.

The Nitmiluk Shield victory was never in doubt for the Bulla Boab Nuts as they reached the target of 29 with more than seven overs to spare, thanks to opening batters Liam Birriman (16 off 8 balls) and Zac Motlap (10 off 8 balls).

Six teams took to the field in the Nitmiluk Cup, including the Bushrangers, Bad Company Men, Kalano Crocs, Timber Creek Dingoes, Venndale Bats and the Wurli Warriors.

Looking for their second Nitmiluk Cup victory in two years and coming off a very successful 2015 Dingo Cup campaign, it was the Bad Company Men who took on the Venndale Bats in the final.

Batting first, Bad Company posted a strong total of 2-92 from their 10 overs, led by John Garling (32 not out off 22) and A J Rosas (33 not out off 16).

Despite some hard-hitting from Jeff Mortlock (31 not out off 17), the Venndale Bats fell short by 16 runs thanks to some tight bowling from Lewis Lampton (2-5 off 2 overs) and Dwayne Rosas (1-8 off 2 overs), finishing on a total of 4-76 from their allotted overs.



Nitmiluk winners Bad Company Men.



School Cup team the Clyde Fenton Girls.



John Garling, batting for Bad Company Men against Kalano Crocs.



The bails fly in the Nitmiluk Cup match between the Wurli Warriors and the Venndale Bats.



A Borroloola Girls batter in action in the School Cup.



The Nitmiluk Shield winners, Bulla Boab Nuts.



Zac Motlap bowls for Bulla Boab Nuts in the Nitmiluk Shield.

Sydney BBL clubs combine to promote Indigenous cricket



SOME of NSW's best Aboriginal cricketers came together in Orange this month for the first Aboriginal T20 Cup.

They were placed into two teams – Sydney Sixers and Sydney Thunder.

The Sixers and the Thunder are the two Sydney teams in the Australia-wide Big Bash League T20 competition.

The two-day tournament on November 7-8 was designed to promote Indigenous cricket and to create a pathway to the elite level.

The matches were played at Wade Park.

After three matches, the Thunder were crowned 2-1 winners.

The Sixers won the opening game, but the Thunder won the next two.

The Sixers were captained by Brett Russell, while Lain Beckett led the Thunder XI.

Veteran cricketer and now coach Jeff Cook padded up for the Thunder in the second game and scored a whirlwind 66.

In the third and deciding game,

16-year-old Marty Jeffrey figured in a match-winning opening partnership with Aaron Muir.

Muir was out just five runs short of a half century, while Jeffrey played some pristine shots, scoring 62 not out as Thunder finished with 143.

The Sixers could not match this total.

The Sixers team: Brett Russell (c) 20 (Parramatta-Central Coast), Jay Trindall 23 (Sydney), Tyrone Thomas 24 (Eden, Fred Gow over-age (Sydney), Aaron Gow 23 (Sydney), Aiden Bills 15 (Hunter Valley Selection), Thomas Belmonte 20 (Orange), Aaron Parsons 15 (United All Blacks Macleay Valley), Michael Hannelly 20 (Orange), Matthew Sheather 20 (Nynghan), Craig Trindall over-age (North Coast).

Thunder: Lain Beckett (c) 19 (ACT), Martin Jeffery 16 (Dubbo), Aaron Muir 20 (Wests), Yarran Fair-Townsend 15 (Campbelltown), Djali Bloomfield 23 (ACT), Kenneth Everson (Wellington), Josh Coyte 20 (Orange), Jarrod Hookey, 17 (Sydney), Brett Donnelly, Tyrone Liddiard 17 (Penrith), Greg Liddiard over-age (Penrith), Pat Harris 20 (Orange).



Rival captains Brett Russell (Sixers), left, and Lain Beckett (Thunder) prepare for the coin toss.



The Thunder and Sixers teams.

Accolade for Jesse

By CHRIS PIKE



JESSE Williams continues to inspire his American teammates in the National Football League (NFL) with the Australian cancer survivor recently awarded with the Ed Block Courage Award.

While rugby league convert Jarryd Hayne might have attracted the bulk of media attention for his attempts to play in the NFL with the San Francisco 49ers this season, Williams is another Australian making a significant impact in the massive business that is American Football.

The players of each NFL team votes on who they believe should receive their club's Ed Block Courage Award every season and Williams was the standout choice to be the Seattle Seahawks' recipient for 2015.

The award is presented to a player who exemplifies commitment to the principles of courage, sportsmanship and strength. All of that sums up what Williams has gone through the past six months.

The Queensland native nicknamed 'The Monstar' for his massive 6ft 3in 325-pound (189cm 147.4kg) frame was enjoying life having moved to America to spend two years playing college football at the University of Alabama, and then spending the past two seasons in the NFL at Seattle.

First Australian

He made history by becoming the first Australian player to earn a Super Bowl ring.

However, life took a nasty turn in May this year when he was diagnosed with papillary type 2 cancer.

Before worrying about his football career, Williams had to first make sure his life was extended and went through surgery to help his treatment, survival and ultimate recovery.

Not only was the surgery and treatment successful, but the 25-year-old made a stunning return to pre-season training camp with the Seahawks and hit the playing field for some impressive performances in the off-season.

So well did Williams make his return that the coaching staff and his teammates at Seattle were so inspired by him that they could think of no other deserving winner of their Ed Block Courage Award.

Perhaps the greatest compliment to the way Williams has battled back is the fact that he has done it so well and is now in such good health and physical condition that it's like he never even battled the cancer.

Williams did have hardships with knee injuries in his first two NFL seasons, but that was nothing compared with his cancer diagnosis. Despite not yet being in remission, Williams does appear to be heading in the right direction and hopes to be clear of the cancer soon.

He put in a remarkable effort to return to action over the off-season to earn his spot in the final roster of the Seahawks for the 2015-16 NFL season.

While he's yet to appear so far during the regular season, he remains close to selection and it does appear to be only a matter of time.



The Ed Block Courage Award presented to Jesse Williams.



Jesse Williams at the 2014-15 Superbowl won by his Seattle Seahawks.

Particularly with the respect he has earned for his toughness by everyone at his club, there's no doubt coach Pete Carroll will be excited to give him an NFL debut.

After receiving Seattle's Ed Block Courage Award for 2015, Williams explained his reaction on his Instagram account while posting a photo of the trophy.

"Very humbled and grateful for being selected for this award. Means a lot to my family and I being recognised for constantly fighting these obstacles life throws at us," Williams wrote.

"Appreciate all the messages of support as my family and I still continue to take care of this cancer until it is gone and I can be in remission."

The Ed Block Courage Award Foundation supports abused, neglected and at-risk children. It is named after Ed Block, a World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient who was athletic trainer at the Baltimore Colts in the NFL for 23 seasons.

Williams has spent the past week at home in Brisbane to celebrate his 25th birthday and to spend time with his family, including his recently-born son before returning to Seattle.

The long road

Magic's Moments



With **MICHAEL O'LOUGHLIN**

magic@koorimail.com

THE road to being drafted to the Australian Football League (AFL) can be a long and winding track and for some players, it can take a while to achieve their dream.

As I have often written, talent is an essential ingredient, but it is not the only quality needed.

I have watched with interest the reports on Callum Ah Chee, who is one of six brothers from WA.

Jordan, 24, the oldest of the siblings, has always been the one to catch.

He's the benchmark for the other boys – beating him at running, jumping, wrestling – and most other athletic pursuits – is an achievement.

Two years separate Jordan and Brendon, who is on Port Adelaide's list.

Jakob, 20, is third in line. He is two years older than Callum, a speedy half-forward headed for this year's NAB AFL Draft.

Truan, 14, and Raff, 6, round out the Ah Chee boys.

"Brendon gets angry because we beat him, even though he's the only AFL player," Callum says.

The AFL will likely have a second Ah Chee when Callum is selected at the draft.

His drafting will continue a fascinating family football story.

Since he was three, Callum Ah Chee has lived in Armadale, in south-east Perth, after the boys' parents Brendon Snr and Valerie made the decision to leave Derby, a town in the Kimberley region of WA.

"There was no organised sport up there, and you've got to realise that in small country towns, if your kids aren't busy, they get into trouble," Valerie says.

"We decided there were more opportunities in Perth for the boys and made the big decision to move.

Callum's great, great

grandfather, Owen Ah Chee, migrated to Australia from China in the early 1800s. He travelled through the Northern Territory and the Kimberleys and stopped at Derby.

He married Nellie, an Aboriginal woman from the Nyikina people, and they had 10 children, who all grew up in the region.

Owen opened a bakery, where generations of Ah Chees worked.

"We were the pioneering family for that town," Brendon Snr says.

Callum Ah Chee has heard the stories of his family history, and read them, too.

His grandmother is an author, and has written a book detailing her Aboriginal background and how she came to start a family with a travelling Dutchman.

"I'm an Aboriginal, and I'm proud of that side of my heritage. But I'm also proud of my Chinese and Dutch background, and how it's all come together," Callum says.

"It's cool to know your name represents so much history."

Ah Chee is hoping to add another chapter with his football career.

He started this year in Florida in the United States with the NAB AFL Academy squad on its 10-day training camp.

Clubs know Ah Chee is already good at a lot of things.

He's a classy kick, can mark well above his head, and he's smart around goal.

He has pace, too: He's a loping type of runner, but has completed the 20-metre sprint in 2.88 seconds.

He has shown those traits as a 182cm forward, but as a kid he used to play in the ruck because of his big leap.

Setbacks

He has also suffered injury and encountered setbacks, but didn't need to look far to know patience is a requirement for the top level.

Brendon was drafted by Port Adelaide in 2011.

But with injury and form struggles in his first three seasons, Brendon finally made his debut this year.

"When Bren comes home, he talks about how the AFL's a completely different environment to the under 18s," Callum says.

"He's said things can happen that upset you, but you just need to stay resilient."

Recruiters like the point of difference Ah Chee brings to this year's draft.

The group overall might be short on pace and class relative to previous years, but he has both.

"He's a Rolls Royce," one club scout says. "He's so smooth across the ground and is one of those players where everything slows down when he's involved."

"He'd have a lot of suitors



pretty high in the draft, maybe in the top three."

A recruiter from another club says Ah Chee's humble personality is appealing.

"He's a really intelligent, engaging kid who speaks articulately," he says.

"He's getting the message now about his footy, too, and I don't think until the tour he had really had too much brutal feedback."

"But he's smart and he understood it."

"He's from pretty good stock with his brothers, who are all high achievers."

Brendon's long-awaited debut reinforced to Callum Ah Chee that he wants to be playing in the AFL in a year.

He thinks of himself in the best 15 prospects in the country, and when he went to the Melbourne-Gold Coast game, he realised the big time is closer than he thought.

"Seeing boys like Jarrod Garlett and Angus Brayshaw debut in that game was pretty exciting," he says.

"I was watching them thinking it could be me in a year. You can be here at one point and then not that long after be playing on the big stage. I'm itching to get on an AFL list."

The good thing about this kid is that he has learned from every step along the road so far.

He has struck adversity but has remained dedicated.

He knows who he is and where he has come from.

He just needs to maintain this attitude and work ethic and the opportunities will come.

He just needs to remember that in the excitement of being drafted, he has only reached the starting line.

There is a whole other long road in front of him.

Until Next Time.... Keep Dreaming!

Callum Ah Chee, above, and big brother Brendon, below. Callum looks set to join his brother in the AFL ranks. He is one of the most exciting prospects lining up at this year's AFL draft and is attracting plenty of interest. Brendon plays with Port Adelaide.



The ones to watch

By PETER ARGENT



THERE could be four prime Indigenous candidates for first-round selections

going into the 2015 National AFL Draft at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Tuesday, November 24.

They include Adelaide talent Wayne Milera, West Australian Callum Ah Chee, Victorian livewire small forward-midfielder Jade Gresham and Tiwi Islander 'royalty' Daniel Rioli.

Milera, who overcame a heart scare, played SANFL league football this year, including impressive performances during the finals series, and should be the first Indigenous talent selected, just in front of Ah Chee, who has a brother, Brendon, on the Port Adelaide list.

Gresham, a leader in the Northern Jets TAC Cup campaign, is regarded as one of the best small forwards in the draft, noted for his speed and power.

Rioli enhanced his credentials with an outstanding game in the curtain-raiser on AFL grand final day, along with impressive athletic and skills performances at the Draft Combine.

"I liken Callum (Ah Chee) to a young Jack Billings, with his personality type and ability," said AFL national talent football manager Michael Ablett.

"He has elite athletic and football traits and there is still plenty of development.

"Daniel Rioli has the special combination of speed and endurance that makes him a

sought-after commodity.

"After his performance in the nationals against Tasmania, his effort in the Allies game, backed up by an exceptional Draft Combine, makes him an exciting prospect.

"Wayne (Milera) is a fantastic athlete who has proved this year he can handle himself against men.

"He was consistent at Central District league level and is ready to go – he could slot straight in to an AFL side for the NAB Challenge in 2016.

"Jade (Gresham) could not have done any more.

"He's an All-Australian who tested well at the Combine, along with having tremendous leadership and character traits.

"I believe he'll quickly make the transitions to an AFL program and play early."

The next player with a Aboriginal heritage expected to be picked up is Bendigo Pioneer and Scotch College medium forward Aidyn Johnson.

One of the more interesting players in the draft is Subiaco's opportunist forward Shane Yarran. Now 26, he helped guide Subiaco to back-to-back WAFL premierships, kicking five goals and three behinds from just eight kicks in the decider.

"Aidyn had hamstring and quad issues that forced him to the sidelines for a lot of 2015," Ablett said.

"He can break games open in a short period, along with presenting well at the Draft Combine, and has given himself every chance.

"There has been genuine interest in Shane as he is ready made for senior football.

"I suspect he best chances

are with the clubs currently in or around the premiership window.

"The other who comes from the west and has had significant interest is Yestin Eades.

"He had a brilliant TAC Cup finals series with the North Ballarat Rebels.

"He has elite speed and ran a three-second 20m sprint and a 15-plus beep.

"He's a silky smooth footballer who has a tendency to fall in and out of games."

It is expected if Eades isn't collected on draft day, he will be secured as a rookie pick.

An outside chance to be collected in the draft, but a bigger possibility in the rookie draft is Norwood and Wanderers small forward David Ferreira.

Other possibilities are WA lads Shane McAdam and Marlon Pickett, along with Kieran Agius from Adelaide, and Jordan Matera, son of 1992 Norm Smith medallist and AFL Hall of Famer Peter.

There is expected to be 60 live picks and adding to the dynamics of the draft for the first time, a bidding system to father/son and academy selections.

The rookie draft will be held the following Friday, November 27.

Argent's draft predictions

Draft certainties: Wayne Milera, Jade Gresham, Daniel Rioli, Callum Ah Chee, Aidyn Johnson

Draft chances: Shane Yarran, Yestin Eades, Davin Ferreira

Rookie chances: Kieran Agius, Marlon Pickett, Shane McAdam, Willie Rioli junior, Jordan Matera, Isaya McKenzie.



Wayne Milera
Picture:
Peter Argent



Callum
Ah Chee



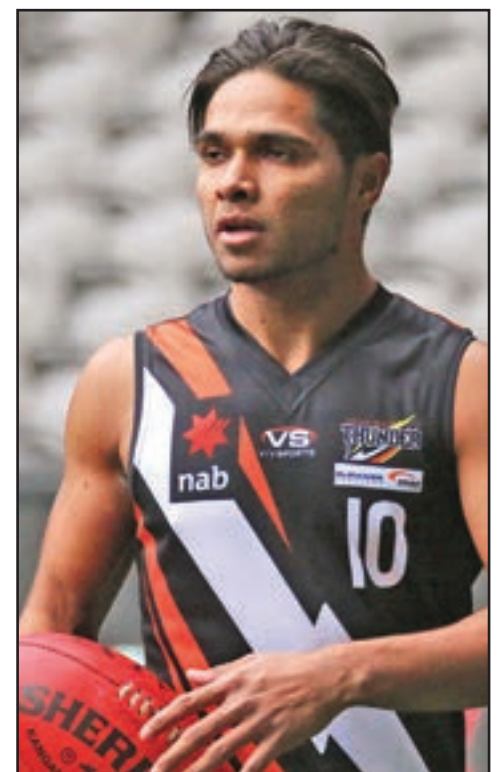
Daniel Rioli
Picture:
Peter Argent



Jade Graham
Picture: Peter Argent



Yestin Eades
Picture: Peter
Argent



Davin Ferreira

Tolerance and respect

RUGBY LEAGUE



With PRESTON CAMPBELL

It was great to be at the launch of the All Stars for 2016 with Wayne Bennett there to once again support the event.

Bennett brought credibility to the event from the start and has remained committed since then.

The All Stars match is even more important this year given events in sport and the broader community in recent times.

The unfair and undignified treatment of Adam Goodes gives the week deeper significance and we must use the opportunity to preach tolerance and respect among players and fans.

I am sure the boys will embrace the opportunity to show their support for Adam across the week and I am equally sure that Bennett's new-look All Stars will also use the week to send positive messages to the community.

These days I would hope we would not see the same thing happening in rugby league, but we always have to be vigilant and educate supporters and stakeholders.

One of the best ways to do that is through the All Stars game that puts Indigenous culture and the contribution of Indigenous players front and centre.

Some AFL fans were worried by a pretend spear pre-game dance created by the players.

To be honest, I couldn't understand why some of those AFL fans were booing Adam.

I think people were getting on board just because others started.

They weren't aware of what was really going on... not aware about why Adam was doing what he does.

He's passionate about who he is, he's proud of who he is and where he comes from.

There's nothing wrong with that.

Nobody should be booed for being who they are and being proud of who they are, whether they are Indigenous or not.

It doesn't matter.

If they (fans) can see it and



National Rugby League (NRL) head of football Todd Greenberg, left, Preston Campbell and Wayne Bennett speak at the launch of the 2016 All Stars match. Picture: NRLphotos

they can listen to an explanation to what it's all about, they'll get a lot more from it.

It's all about respect.

I like that the All Stars match has been given a tweak ahead of its return to Brisbane with our Indigenous side now set to take on a World All Stars that includes a minimum of four NRL players from Australia, New Zealand and England.

It will give the game an international feel and be a greater celebration of many cultures.

The game will be a stepping stone for a lot of players and I believe that the selection in the Indigenous All Stars team of James Roberts will be a platform for him to become a representative star.

Twelve months after his name was left off the public ballot, James has completed a stellar season for the Titans and is on course to earn an All Stars call-up.

With Queensland Origin stars Will Chambers and Dane Gagai likely to snare the two centre spots in the Indigenous team, Roberts may be forced to shift out one spot on to the wing, but it is the activities leading up to the game itself that will most benefit the 22-year-old's development.

Settled on the Gold Coast with a partner and with cousin Tyrone Roberts now joining him at the Titans, Roberts is poised to make good on the abundant talent that saw him make his NRL debut at 18 and put the problems of the past behind him.

A week spent in the company of such champion players as Johnathan Thurston, Greg Inglis and Sam Thaiday would be an invaluable experience for any young player and Roberts deserves praise for the way in

which he has already turned his life around.

For a lot of the boys in the Indigenous All Stars team, it's about finding out about themselves.

You talk about the Indigenous camp that they have the weekend before and that brings a lot out of the boys – a lot of pride and a lot of inspiration, but also asks them questions about themselves.

What they need to be able to do for themselves is be the person they need to be.

James has worked really hard on the person he is.

We see on the footy field he's a great footballer, but the person off the field is turning into a really good young man.

He has said that not getting selected for the Indigenous All Stars team made him "even hungrier" coming into the 2015 season and I believe selection in the 2016 edition would be just reward for the way he has conducted himself the past two years.

We all hear about his past and we know he had a pretty tough upbringing, but a lot of people have tough upbringings and it takes a strong person who wants to effect change, and he's done that.

Obviously he's had support and good people around him, but he'd be somebody that would benefit so much from this game.

Sam Thaiday summed up the importance of the game as he looked forward to another blockbuster next year.

"Our game is built on inclusiveness and teamwork and matches like the All Stars allow all people to come together as one," he said.

"I'm looking forward to hopefully being selected in the



James Roberts takes the ball up for the Titans in 2015. Picture: AAP

Indigenous team again and being part of all the build-up ahead of the match.

"It's always a special time to bond with fellow Indigenous players and our communities and learn more about our heritage."

MY good mate Dean Widders has not only been doing great work at the NRL, but has also been active in the Redfern

community, supporting programs and coaching the Redfern All Blacks to help develop pride in the community.

To help celebrate their wins in the men's and women's divisions at the Koori Knockout and their premiership win in South Sydney A grade, they will be holding a presentation on November 21 at the Albert Palais Centre in Leichhardt. It should be a huge night.

Youngsters begin tour of France, Italy



THE 2015 Indigenous Young Achievers rugby league squad has started its tour of France and Italy.

The squad was farwelled at Rugby League Central in Sydney by NSW Blues coach Laurie Daley and NSW Rugby League CEO David Trodden on Sunday, November 8.

One of their first engagements in France was to be the guests of the mayor of Villers-Bretonneux for the laying of the wreaths on Armistice Day.

The team is made up of non-elite players from across NSW, from places as small and remote as Bourke and Collarenebri.

The boys also visited the battlefields of Somme, focusing on the Indigenous involvement in the world wars.

They also attended a reception at the Australian Embassy in Paris.

Rugby league legend Ronny Gibbs and former NRL player Beau Champion are travelling with the side as mentors.

The tour is self-funded, with monetary support and resources provided by the New South Wales Rugby League and KARI Aboriginal Resources Incorporated.



Members of the NSW Rugby League Indigenous Young Achievers squad attend their farewell function in Sydney. The boys are now touring France and Italy.

At home in the west



Harley Bennell

By CHRIS PIKE



STAR Australian Football League (AFL) players Lewis Jetta and Harley Bennell have arrived back in

Perth to play from 2016 onwards at the West Coast Eagles and Fremantle Dockers respectively, and they could have a big part to play in the premiership push of their new clubs.

Jetta and Bennell were just two of a host of moves during the AFL trade period following the 2015 grand final, where Hawthorn beat West Coast.

Jetta played 127 matches at the Sydney Swans since arriving in 2010 and was a key player in the 2012 premiership, but the speedster requested a return to Perth and was granted his wish by being traded to West Coast with Sydney receiving ruckman Callum Sinclair.

Bennell was earmarked as one of the most talented young players in the country upon his arrival at the Suns in 2010 and during his 81 games he showed that he could be an elite player.

Some discipline and off-field problems dragged him down and the Suns decided to sever ties with him.

Like Jetta, Bennell has returned to Western Australia and landed at Fremantle, who are still chasing an elusive AFL premiership.

Jetta became a mainstay of the Sydney team immediately upon arrival in 2010 after an outstanding WAFL season with Swan Districts, but six years away from Perth proved too much for him and his young family.

While being sad to leave the Swans where Adam Goodes was his mentor and close friend, he's excited to now join an Eagles team coming off making the grand final in 2015.

"It's sad and I made a lot of good



Lewis Jetta, left, a couple of other well-known Sydney Swans.

Picture: AFL Media

friends at the Swans, especially 'Horse' (coach John Longmire) who has been like a father to me and all the coaches have been guiding me," Jetta said.

"It's sad to leave all these guys, but it's a new chapter in my life and I'm very excited about it. I'm looking forward to making some new friends now and I've also got a lot of family in Perth so it's a very exciting chapter to begin next for me and Jess (fiance). I know it's important that I look after Jess and our kids so whatever I can do to make them happy, I will."

Special bond

The premiership triumph with Sydney will always mean Jetta has a special bond with the club he played 127 matches with, but he will now turn his sights to trying to help West Coast go one step better in 2016.

"Me and my brothers always dreamed about playing AFL and winning a premiership, and I'm the only one in my family to do it, so it was an honour to be part of that and I was very lucky to be there," he said.

While Jetta has been happy to fly

under the radar for much of his time with Sydney, the opposite has been the case for Bennell at Gold Coast.

Drafted with a high profile originally to the Suns from WAFL club Peel Thunder, much was expected of Bennell and he has shown glimpses to suggest he could be a dominant goal kicking midfielder in the AFL.

However, it hasn't always been smooth sailing and that became almost untenable earlier in 2015 when images of him appearing with an illegal substance was splashed across the front page of newspapers nationally.

The 23-year-old is now excited to be returning to Perth and to be linking up with Fremantle where he is looking forward to playing under coach Ross Lyon.

"I'm excited about returning home to WA and joining Fremantle," Bennell said.

"I want to thank Gold Coast for drafting me and the support they have offered me during my time at the club. My main focus now is to knuckle down and have a solid pre-season over the coming months."

Walker walks out on rugby sevens



FORMER promising rugby league player Shannon Walker has turned his back on rugby union and is trying to re-establish himself in

elite rugby league.

Walker has been part of the Australian rugby sevens squad for a couple of years and has travelled the world taking part in international tournaments.

Before converting to rugby sevens, he played a few National Rugby League (NRL) games with the Gold Coast Titans, but spent most of his time with feeder club the Tweed Heads Seagulls in the Queensland Super Cup competition.

He is one of the fastest men to have graced the NRL and now Walker has walked out on a potential Olympic Games berth to chase a second crack at rugby league.

He is trialling for an NRL contract with the Titans, just months before the Australian Rugby Sevens team for next year's Rio Olympics is finalised.

Walker looked in top shape when he hit the training paddock with the Titans for the first time last week.

Gold Coast officials were tightlipped about the speedster's return, but it's understood he is in a prime position to play in next year's Auckland Nines pre-season tournament.

Walker played four NRL games for the Titans between 2008-10 but struggled to make his mark on the competition, mainly due to recurring injuries.

Plagued by injuries

He signed with the Australian Rugby Union in 2011 to play the seven-a-side format, but injuries thwarted most of his time in the code.

Tweed Heads Seagulls coach Aaron Zimmerle said the lightning quick fullback had not lost his talent.

"Athletically and physically, he looks super," he said.

"Sevens is an intense training regimen. They train really hard even though the game is so condensed.

"The transition to 80 minutes will be interesting, but he has natural gifts that don't go away.

"He has speed, evasion and the ability to break tackles.

"He could do it when he was 18 and he's only 26 now. He's far from being past his best."

Walker's young family stayed on the Gold Coast while he toured around the world with the sevens squad.

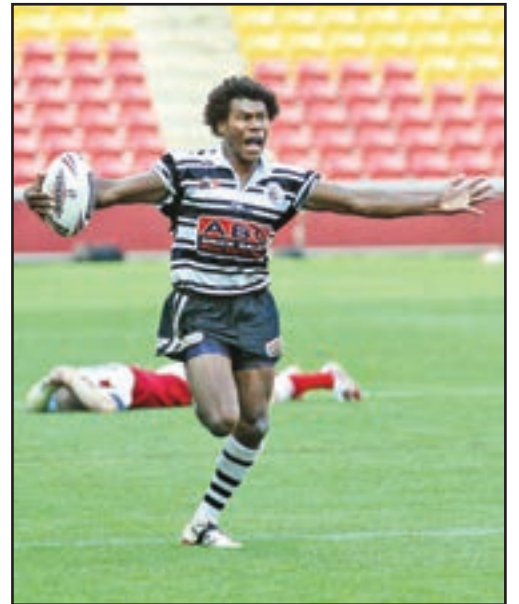
The Titans tried to sign Walker for a cameo appearance in the inaugural Auckland Nines in 2013, but the ARU blocked the move.

At his best, Walker is a damaging fullback and if his body holds up, he could be a danger man for the rebuilding Titans.

"He's such an excitement machine," Zimmerle said.

"He still craves rugby league. His family is based on the coast and he was keen to have an opportunity to play.

"He had to make a decision to persist with sevens or come back home."



Shannon Walker in a 2007 file picture during his earlier days with the Tweed Heads Seagulls.

There should have been more, says Ella-Duncan



MARCIA Ella-Duncan, the first Aboriginal netballer to represent

Australia at senior level, is hugely disappointed that almost 30 years later, only one more indigenous player has worn the Diamonds uniform.

Ella-Duncan, who was to be inducted into the Australian Netball

Hall of Fame on November 7, launched the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) earlier in the day.

The RAP is aimed at increasing the participation and involvement of Indigenous netballers from grass roots to elite level. (See page 14.)

Ella-Duncan never expected her selection for 18 Tests in 1986-87 to open the floodgates to national representation for

Indigenous players, but she finds it unacceptable that since then, Sharon Finnan was the only other Indigenous player to represent the Diamonds, the last time being 15 years ago.

"I've been quite outspoken at different times about the dearth of Indigenous players at national level and even at ANZ (trans-Tasman championship) level, state level," Ella-Duncan said.

"My experience tells me that it's not because of lack of talent.

"A lot of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids are naturally athletic and are well suited to the game.

"When we look at the AFL, I think why isn't netball capitalising on this particular sector of the community and why aren't we tapping into that the way other sports have.

"I've always found that really unacceptable, that we've only had two (Indigenous) representatives (both) in the same era."

Ella-Duncan has applauded Netball Australia for acknowledging there are barriers to Indigenous participation in the sport and committing to strategies to address the issue.

Among the initiatives Ella-Duncan would like to see adopted is a 'quarantined' reserved place for an Indigenous player in each regional academy squad.

"A lot of Aboriginal kids just can't see the pathway; it's just not clear for them," Ella-Duncan said.

"There are lots of barriers, some of them practical, some of them systemic.

"There's an awful lot of people out there in the netball community who are doing wonderful things.

"I think part of what RAP will try to do is to harness what's already out there and try to get better



Marcia Ella-Duncan in her playing days. Picture: Caig Borrow



Marcia Ella-Duncan with her Australian Netball Hall of Fame certificate.

collaboration across the sport and have more strategic direction around the things that we are doing already and things that we can do differently.

"The pathways for netball up to Diamonds level, there's a lot of steps to be taken and Aboriginal kids drop out at different times.

"I think our first challenge is to understand what are those trigger points."

Ella-Duncan played 18 Tests in

1986-87, winning silver at the World Cup in the latter year.

The sister of Wallabies Mark, Glen and Gary Ella, she's not the first member of the famous sporting family to make a sporting hall of fame.

"I checked that out and my brother Mark beat me: that's alright I'm second – not fourth," joked Ella-Duncan, who described her Hall of Fame selection as "very humbling". – AAP

Breakaway move

Badu teams behind push to establish rival carnival

By ALF WILSON



A SUPER Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rugby league carnival looks likely to be held in Cairns next year in direct opposition to the Arthur Beetson Foundation Murri carnival at Redcliffe.

It is understood the prime mover behind the carnival is the Kulpiyam club, from Badu Island.

It is believed that Argun Warriors, another Badu club, is also interested.

Other sources have told the *Koori Mail* that the Queensland Rugby League (QRL) Northern Division may also be looking at organising such a carnival.

To be known as the 2016 NQ Cup, the dates being put forward are from September 30 to October 2 and negotiations are continuing between potential partners and sponsors.

There was talk of such a carnival at the Bindal carnival in Townsville last month and it had support from several clubs.

Big costs

The reason behind the Cairns carnival is the cost associated for Torres Strait and far north Queensland sides to travel to Brisbane for the Redcliffe carnival.

It is understood it costs about \$30,000 for airfares, nomination fees, accommodation and other expenses to be part of the Redcliffe carnival.

Organisers of the Cairns carnival argue that costs for its carnival would be far less for roughly the same prizemoney as the Redcliffe carnival.



Saguci Tigers players form a tunnel of honour for another Badu Island side Kulpiyam as they run out for their semifinal match at this year's Arthur Beetson Foundation Murri rugby league carnival at Redcliffe. Kulpiyam is believed to be behind a push to initiate a carnival in Cairns to rival the Redcliffe carnival. Picture: Alf Wilson

The Murri carnival was held at Redcliffe from October 1-4 at Dolphins Oval and it was by far the biggest such event in Queensland during 2015.

A total of 28 sides were in the open men's section, 10 in the women's division and 17 in the under 15 grade.

Included were a large number of Torres Strait sides. Players of Torres Strait Island descent were also members of many of the competing teams.

It was an amazing effort by three Badu island sides – Saguci Tigers, Argun Warriors and Kulpiyam – to finish in the first three positions on the ladder after the qualifying games and another side – Malu Kiwai – finished ninth.

Kulpiyam won the Murri carnival in 2014 on protest and Argun Warriors took it out two years earlier.

The Cairns carnival could attract up to 50 teams and would

need to be QRL-sanctioned.

QRL Northern Division divisional manager Scott Nosworthy said there needed to be discussions with stakeholders before a decision was made.

'Think tank'

"There have been communications between a number of carnival organisers in regards to what might happen," he said.

"I have proposed a 'think tank'

in Cairns in late November or early December to work through issues.

"I have spoken to a number of these organisers and I believe they are keen to discuss a proposal."

If the NQ Cup goes ahead, the Murri carnival could suffer. It has been well supported by FNQ and Torres Strait Island teams.

Officials of the Redcliffe carnival have yet to comment on the breakaway move.

Idris turns his back on rugby league



THE Penrith Panthers are hopeful Jamal Idris

could return to the National Rugby League (NRL) club next year after he announced an indefinite break from rugby league.

The surprise move came on the Panthers' first day back at pre-season training under new coach Anthony Griffin as Idris was released from the final year of a three-season contract.

Panthers playmaker Peter Wallace said there

was talk amongst the Panthers playing group that the former NSW State of Origin utility could be back at the foot of the mountains.

"There was talk that he could be moving on to another club so it did come as a surprise that he is taking time out, but that is the decision he has made. We have to respect that and we wish him the best for the future," Wallace said.

"But he could be back. He might just need a year or two out of the game and then he might come back

and he will only 26, so he is young enough to do that. It might do him the world of good to get away and, you never know, you might see him back here in a year."

— AAP



Soward doesn't deserve treatment, says Wallace



PENRITH star Peter Wallace has launched a passionate defence of halves partner Jamie Soward as the under-siege pair commit themselves to helping rebuild the Panthers as a National Rugby League (NRL) premiership force under new coach Anthony Griffin.

Penrith began pre-season training last week, with Griffin yet to guarantee the first grade futures of Wallace and Soward.

Wallace fell out with Griffin in their time together at Brisbane, while Soward has been linked to a move away from the foot of the mountains.

Wallace has said the breakdown of his relationship with Griffin at Red Hill was no longer an issue at Penrith and Soward says he will play out the remaining two years of his contract with the Panthers.

Soward has again become a lightning rod for the failings of the club he is with. After leading the Panthers to a preliminary final appearance in 2014, some have deemed the 2010 premiership winner surplus to requirements at Penrith ahead of 2016.

A similar situation occurred at St George Illawarra under ex-coach Steve Price and Wallace says that is unfair.

"He cops it more than most, but he deals with it well, he has become used to it over the years," Wallace said of Soward.

"But I do feel for him sometimes he does cop a fair bit of flack, a lot of it is unnecessary a lot of it is probably not needed. I'm not sure why."

"I think people form an opinion of him and they don't know him. He is a great bloke. I get on with him really well. He is one of my good mates."

"He is a good player and he still has plenty to offer this club." — AAP



Daniel Lloyd, Harriett David and Chris Guyula celebrate completing the New York Marathon.



2119 IMP founder Rob de Castella embraces Casino's Eileen Byers after her personal triumph.

Daniel devours NY Marathon



MURRAY Bridge Indigenous runner Daniel Lloyd was the first 2015 Indigenous Marathon Project (IMP) squad member to finish the

world's largest marathon and position himself as the 44th graduate of the program.

Lloyd followed in the footsteps of fellow Murray Bridge runner, 2013 Graduate, Luke McKenzie, to conquer the New York Marathon in 3:41:59.

Daniel and his nine fellow squad members crossed the line of the world's largest marathon on Sunday, November 1 (early Monday morning Australian time).

It was a self-transforming six months for the runners, who overcame significant struggles and sacrifices to become beacons of inspiration for their families and communities.

Life-changing

Lloyd said the IMP experience had changed his life.

"That was the hardest thing I've ever done! It's so rewarding achieving this goal. I'm absolutely ecstatic," he said.

"I tried out for the program last year and missed out. But I was determined to

keep trying to earn my spot on the team. I helped establish Deadly fun runs in my local community, encouraged people to get active and healthy, and applied again in 2015.

"IMP is life-changing. It teaches you the importance of discipline and commitment, and provides the tools to overcome life's obstacles.

"I'm just so proud, and to see all of my teammates cross the line; it's a very special and significant time."

The 2015 squad's results:

Daniel Lloyd (Murray Bridge, SA)

3:41:59

Chris Guyula (Gapuwiyak, NT) 4:36:14

Harriet David (Cairns, Qld) 4:38:45

Jessica Lovett-Murray (Heywood, Vic)

5:11:08

Alicia Sabatino (Thursday Island, Qld)

5:11:08

John Leha (Marrickville, NSW) 5:54:40

Aaron West (Queanbeyan NSW)

6:11:42

Jacinta Gurruwiwi (Galiwinku, NT),

6:11:43

Eileen Byers (Casino, NSW) 6:11:43

Dwayne Jones (Timber Creek, NT)

6:32:19.

IMP founder Rob de Castella said the 2015 squad exemplified determination,

sacrifice and undeniable resilience.

"Running a marathon is one of the hardest challenges you can do," he said.

"It tests your mind, spirit and body. You really need to dig deep and find another level of self-belief to push through that mental struggle when you want to stop but have to keep going.

"The marathon is really a metaphor for life and this squad has certainly demonstrated that. They have endured personal struggles in their short lives that many of us don't experience in a lifetime, but they keep going.

"They come from some of the country's, and the world's, most remote areas and they train on difficult terrain in harsh environments.

"Each of our runners has had an immeasurable impact in their communities, spreading the positive benefits of leading an active and healthy lifestyle.

"We constantly remind the runners 'the harder the struggle, the greater the reward'.

"IMP is about celebrating Indigenous resilience and achievement. This is at the core of what IMP is about and we will continue to drive this philosophy and build on it for the future."



Jacinta Gurruwiwi, from Galiwinku (Northern Territory) shows off her medal.



Dwayne Jones, from Timber Creek (NT) earned a medal he will treasure for the rest of his life.



Alicia Sabatino, from Thursday Island, and Jessica Lovett-Murray, from Heywood (Victoria) pound the New York pavement.



New York Marathon finishers: back row, from left, Dwayne Jones, Aaron West, Alicia Sabatino; front, Harriett David and Eileen Byers.



Anthony Mundine has water poured over his face during his encounter with Texan Charles Hatley for the World Boxing Council (WBC) Silver super welterweight title bout at the Melbourne Convention Centre, last Wednesday night. The fight was stopped in the 11th round after Tony Mundine threw in the towel, handing Hatley a one-sided TKO victory. *Picture: AAP*

Retirement an option

'The Man' considers future after 11th round TKO loss



ANTHONY Mundine is contemplating retirement after a crushing loss in his World Boxing Council (WBC) Silver super welterweight title fight to American Charles Hatley.

The fight was stopped in the 11th round just as Mundine's father Tony threw in the towel in at the Melbourne Convention Centre last Wednesday night, handing Hatley a one-sided TKO victory.

Mundine never really recovered from a brutal second round when he was knocked down three times by the Texan, who pummelled the Australian with body blows as well as landing plenty on his chin.

He showed huge courage to fight on and even sent Hatley briefly to the deck in the 10th round, but he couldn't secure the knockout he needed to beat his 29-year-old opponent, whose record is now 26-1.

Poorly prepared

The 40-year-old admitted pre-fight he was only at 85% with his preparation hampered by tendonitis in both elbows which limited his ability to spar as well as a dodgy hip.

It showed with the former world champion looking out of sorts from the opening round.

Mundine said despite the battering he took in the second round, he wasn't hurt and didn't want to stop in the 11th.

"They caught me enough to put me off balance, but I wasn't hurt, but the corner thought they did the right thing," Mundine said.

The loss scuppered hopes of landing a big-money world title fight against an international name like Miguel Cotto and Mundine said it could mean the end of his 15-year career.

'Maybe... maybe not'

"It could be my final fight, but maybe not," Mundine said.

"I just want to get my body right because I had a lot of injuries coming into this fight and I will see what happens."

Mundine was gracious in his defeat, praising Hatley.

"I take my hat off," Mundine said.

"Charles boxed well and moved well. He had good distance and range and I got caught early reaching for him.

"I'm just disappointed; I came in with high expectations but Hatley fought a better fight and I was a bit off."

Hatley will now likely fight for the world championship vacated by Floyd Mayweather Jnr.

Before the fight, Mundine said he

wanted to have a maximum of five more fights after remarkably spending more time as a professional boxer than his famous fighting dad Tony.

When 40-year-old Anthony stepped into the ring against Hatley, it was 15 years and four months since his paid professional debut in 2000.

Former middleweight world title contender and four-division Australian champion Tony, who retired at 32 in 1984, just a couple of weeks after the 15th anniversary of his first pro contest.

However, Tony had 96 fights while Anthony has tallied 53, which is still considered a large amount by modern-day standards as elite boxers tend to fight a lot less than those of previous eras.

Late starter

What made Anthony's record of family longevity more remarkable was that he didn't become a professional boxer until after he turned 25 and had played seven seasons of senior rugby league.

Neither of the Mundines ever imagined the son would be a professional pugilist for longer than the father.

"No, no way, especially starting so late," Anthony said.

"I would never imagined it," said Tony. Anthony said the preparation for the

Hatley fight was his worst ever.

"It's been an up and down camp because of injuries and setbacks," he said before the fight. – AAP

15 fights, 15 wins for Hammond



CAMERON 'The Hammer' Hammond continued on his winning way with a unanimous six-round points

decision over Indonesian Sahlan Coral at the Melbourne Convention Centre last Wednesday night.

The rising Moree-born welterweight now has won all 15 of his fights since turning professional in late 2012.

Hammond was fighting on the same card as Tony Mundine, who was beaten on a TKO by American Charles Hatley.

Coral's record now stands at 14 wins and four losses.



Look who's
returning to
his roots
● See page 84



The Voice of Indigenous Australia

2016 rugby league All Stars revamp: It's us v the World



THE National Rugby League (NRL) All Stars concept has been shaken up with a World All Stars

team set to face the Indigenous side in next year's pre-season showpiece at Lang Park, Brisbane.

The new team is essentially the former NRL All Stars, but rebadged with a more global spin, as organisers attempt to fix the one problem that has dogged the popular representative fixture – finding a suitable opponent for the Indigenous All Stars.

The World All Stars team will feature a minimum of four NRL players each from Australia, New Zealand and England, while the captains of each of those teams will be automatic selections for the team, which will be coached by Wayne Bennett.

Other nations

The remaining players will be made up from other nations, such as Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and France, pending availability. At least one player, and a maximum of two players, will be selected from each NRL club.

NRL head of football Todd Greenberg described it as a 'subtle but significant' change that will encourage the World All Stars players to embrace their heritage and ensure they have as much to play for as their Indigenous counterparts.

"Even the best ideas can be improved over time," Greenberg said.

"We want every player on the field to be able to celebrate their heritage and we believe with some of these changes, every player will."

Former Gold Coast Titans great Preston Campbell, the architect of the All Stars concept, warmly endorsed the move.



NRL All Stars coach Wayne Bennett, left, and Preston Campbell, who came up with the All Stars concept, attend the 2016 NRL All Stars launch at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), Brisbane, on Wednesday, November 4. Picture: NRLphotos

"In the past, (only) the Indigenous side always felt like they had a link to the jersey," Campbell said.

"I think now with this World All Stars players coming from different countries they'll feel like they've got a link to their heritage or culture."

Bennett also welcomed the change, albeit conceding it will make it even tougher for him to pick a side.

"We've had a bit of a look at it and we think we can make it work," he said.

"We're not going to take players out of England, they're all in the NRL somewhere. They'll be NRL players. I think it's a great innovation."

The NRL All Stars clash is slated

for February 13 and will be held at Lang Park (Suncorp Stadium), which hosted the fixture for the first time in 2013.

Meanwhile, Sam Burgess will almost certainly be the first player picked in Bennett's World All Stars team.

Burgess is to return to rugby league, rejoining his old club South Sydney and reuniting with his two younger brothers.

"He'd be good," Bennett said when asked if he'd like Burgess in his team.

"He played actually (in the All Stars match) the first year he came out to Australia. I picked him then before he played a game of rugby league."

"He loved the week. I remember

him coming to me afterwards and thanking me.

"I think it also helped the players in our team get to know him ... Sam's a great player and a good bloke, and I think that was a big stepping stone for him as he started his NRL career."

"If he's available, you can put him down."

Began in 2010

The annual All Stars match has been part of the rugby league calendar since 2010.

Greenberg said the All Stars game would continue to be an important event on the rugby league calendar, but this change will ensure it was even more relevant and entertaining.

"We have seen in recent years the potential of some of the Pacific nations and this will ensure some of those players are given a chance to celebrate their heritage alongside some of the best players in the world from other nations, as well as the game's finest Indigenous talent," he said.

"We have some incredibly diverse talent in rugby league and the new All Stars side will ensure that talent is showcased."

"Under the new model the game will be bigger and better than ever." – AAP

● Tickets to the 2016 Harvey Norman Rugby League All Stars match are on sale now. To purchase tickets, head to www.nrl.com/tickets

Vote now for your favourite players

RUGBY league fans are invited to become official selectors and pick their Indigenous All Stars team that will take on the newly-termed World All Stars at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium next February 13.

Online public voting for the Indigenous All Stars team is under way, with voting open until Sunday, December 6, for fans to help select a 20-man squad.

Some of the game's greats have taken their place as part of the Indigenous All Stars team in the past, including current NRL premiership winning co-captain Johnathan Thurston, who has been selected in each of the five All Stars matches to date.

Voting and selections will be more important than ever after the announcement of an expanded All Stars team capability,

with multiple nationalities available for selection to take on the Indigenous All Stars team.

Indigenous All Stars coach Laurie Daley said he was looking forward to receiving the public team picks and bringing together some of the game's finest Indigenous players to represent their people.

"The Indigenous community, and fans in general, are so passionate about this game

every year and it's wonderful to be able to include them in forming their team to take on the World All Stars in what is set to be another fantastic spectacle," Daley said.

The 16 players with the highest number of public votes will be selected in the Indigenous All Stars squad. Daley will then be given four 'coach's picks'.

● For more details and to vote, fans can visit nrl.com/allstars

● The rise of the Ah Chee Aussie football dynasty: page 80